

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Saturday, March 31.

Washington, March 31.—This being war claim day in the house, only those directly interested in the legislation in the private calendar were in attendance. The house during the four hours it was in session considered and passed 179 bills, many, however, sending the particular claim to the court of claims for adjudication.

Previous to taking up the calendar a bill was passed granting to the Capital City Improvement company, of Helena, Montana, the right to construct a dam across the Missouri river in Montana. A bill to pay the claim of the French Trans-Atlantic Cable company for \$77,712, growing out of the cutting of cables during the Spanish war, was passed.

Another bill recalling the war with Spain which attracted little or no attention was that appropriating \$13,694 to the Ferro Carries Railroad company, of Porto Rico, for mail service performed by this company during the military occupation by the United States. The bill was passed.

Friday, March 30.

Washington, March 30.—The house today passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, carrying \$30,000,000, after considering the measure two weeks. The feature of today's proceedings was the elimination of the age limit of clerks, a provision which created much discussion and which incited the fight against the bill. The bill as passed carries nearly \$700,000 less than the last appropriation bill for similar purposes.

Thursday, March 29.

Washington, March 29.—The senate today listened to speeches on the railroad rate bill by Clay, Carmack and Newlands and passed a bill which provides for the reorganization of the medical department of the army by authorizing the appointment of officers to take the place of contract surgeons. All the senators who spoke on the rate bill indicated a purpose to support it, but Clay expressed the hope that it would be so amended as to afford a limited court review of the orders of the Interstate Commerce commission. Hale criticized the military medical bill, saying it showed a tendency to increase the army, which was not desirable in time of peace.

Culbreton presented and had the clerk read a memorial from the Cattle-raisers' association of Texas, urging the passage of the railroad rate bill as it came from the house.

A bill was passed authorizing the erection of three life saving stations on the coast of Washington between Cape Flattery and Gray's harbor. The senate adjourned until Monday.

Washington, March 29.—Today was a busy day for the house, considerable progress having been made on the executive, legislative and judicial bill. The committee on appropriations suffered a defeat, the committee of the whole, by a vote of 58 to 22, expunging a paragraph from the bill which was alleged to be properly part of the postoffice appropriation bill. An increase of \$10,000 over the appropriation carried by the bill was voted for confidential agents of the Interior department to aid in ferreting out land frauds.

Wednesday, March 28.

Washington, March 28.—Knox made his first set speech in the senate today. He spoke on the railroad rate question, and dealt almost exclusively with the legal features of the problem. When he concluded the senate entered upon the consideration of the conference report on the bill regarding the final disposition of the affairs of the five civilized tribes of Indians and much objection was expressed to many of the changes. Several senators, including La Follette, Clark, of Wyoming, and Tillman, expressed disapproval of the conference provision authorizing the secretary of the interior to lease land.

Washington, March 28.—The president today transmitted to the house the report of Assistant Secretary of State Herbert H. D. Peirce, regarding the consular service in the Orient. The visit of Mr. Peirce included many cities, but his severe criticism is reserved for ex-consul General McWade at Canton, and Consul Williams at Singapore. The charges against McWade, ex-consul at Canton, are drunkenness, employment of a felon, issuance of fraudulent Chinese certificates, extending protection to Chinamen who

Bill for Cattle Shipping. Washington, March 27.—The house committee on interstate commerce today favorably reported a substitute for Representative French's 36-hour livestock bill. The committee bill confers absolute power on the secretary of agriculture to regulate stock shipments, permitting him to extend or shorten the periods as he may deem proper. Under this bill, the secretary could continue to enforce the present 28-hour law, he could permit shipments for longer periods, or require unloading every eight hours, as demanded by some.

Reports Timber Land Bills. Washington, March 26.—The senate public lands committee favorably reported the bill to repeal the timber and stone act and to provide for the sale of timber on public land at not less than its appraised value. Senator Fulton had an amendment inserted providing that 10 per cent of the proceeds of sales of timber shall be expended for public roads and schools in the counties in which the timber is sold, the balance to go to the reclamation fund.

claim to be American citizens, persecution of American citizens for purposes of revenge, and corruption in office.

The charges against Goodnow are 82 in number, some serious and some light. Some are sufficient to support suits at law and give evidence of corruption in office. The opinion of the better element was unfavorable to him in Shanghai.

Tuesday, March 27.

Washington, March 27.—Tillman and McCumber divided the time of the senate today. The North Dakota senator devoting himself to the railroad rate question exclusively and the South Carolina senator discussing various questions. Tillman made a special inquiry concerning the status of his resolution relative to the use of national bank funds in politics, and incidentally spoke of District Attorney Jerome's recent utterances and of Judge Humphrey's decision in the beef trust cases, declaring in the latter matter that the decision against the attorney general had merely rasped what he had sown in the case of ex-Secretary Paul Morton.

Foraker defended Judge Humphrey and Tillman declared that he had not meant to attack the judge, but the law. McCumber picked innumerable flaws in the rate bill, predicting that, if enacted into a law, it would fail entirely to meet the demands of the public. He said, however, he would vote for the bill if properly amended.

Washington, March 27.—The house today witnessed a most unusual scene, the speaker rising on the floor in the midst of a spirited discussion on reciprocity and tariff revision and disclaiming responsibility for differences between minority members. It was toward the close of the debate on the urgent deficiency bill, which appropriated, among other things, for the forthcoming conference at Rio de Janeiro. The bill was passed.

On motion of Tawney, the legislative and judicial bill was taken up, when Prince, of Illinois, and Hardwick, of Georgia, resumed the tactics inaugurated last week by raising a point of order against every paragraph in which there was a departure from existing law. A half dozen points of order were made and sustained affecting the officers of the subtreasuries at New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and St. Louis.

Monday, March 26.

Washington, March 26.—Following the president's suggestion, the house today passed resolutions to correct the useless printing of documents and to empower the printing committees of the two executive bodies to fix the number of documents to be printed, and, should the demand arise for additional copies of a publication, then to have authority to order another edition. It was claimed this action would result in saving the government upward of \$1,000,000 annually. Nearly the entire day was devoted to District of Columbia business.

The fortifications appropriations bill will be sent to conference.

Washington, March 26.—There was a hint in the senate today at an effort to fix a time for a final vote on the railroad bill, but it was surrounded by so much circumspection and doubt that no prediction as to the time would be justified. Tillman stated that he would bring the matter up tomorrow and, unless objection was made, he may ask to have a day specified. The suggestion as to a time arose in connection with the more or less serious effort on the part of a number of senators to secure immediate consideration of amendments offered by themselves.

Washington, March 30.—General Luke E. Wright today took the oath of office as ambassador to Japan. He ceased to be governor general of the Philippines today. Henry C. Ide, of the Philippines commission, the present acting governor, will continue until April 2, when he will be inaugurated governor general.

Washington, March 30.—The legislation prompted by the recent wreck of the steamer Valencia off the Straits of Fuca was authorized to be reported favorably by the house committee on commerce today. It appropriates \$200,000 for an ocean-going life-saving tug and for the establishment of a life-saving station at Neah bay.

St. Paul Bridge Bills Pass. Washington, March 27.—The house today passed three of the six bills authorizing the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad to bridge navigable streams between Chamberlain, S. D., and Puget sound. Strange to say, the three Washington bills introduced by Cushman were not passed, because Cushman, who is a member of the committee to which they were referred, was not on hand to see that they were reported or call them up in the house for passage. The bills will no doubt go through.

Repay Adams' Stealings. Washington, March 27.—Senator Piles today introduced a bill authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to ascertain the losses sustained by various persons who were robbed by George E. Adams, the defaulting cashier of the Seattle assay office. The bill provides that the findings of this commissioner shall be final, and that congress shall make a sufficient appropriation to pay the losses, in the event that Adams' property fails.

HALF MILLION TO STRIKE.

Coal Miners of Whole Nation About to Suspend Work.

Indianapolis, March 30.—The joint meetings of the bituminous coal operators and miners of the central competitive district, composed of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and of the Southwestern district, composed of Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, last night reached a final disagreement on the wage scale to go into effect at the expiration of the present scale on April 1, and the conference of the central district adjourned sine die, while the joint scale committee of the Southwestern district decided to report a disagreement to the joint conference of that district today. It is expected that this conference will at once adjourn sine die without an agreement.

The action of the two conferences will directly cause the suspension of work after Saturday by 178,000 miners unless something unforeseen, like submission of the differences to arbitration, should intervene, and indirectly will affect 206,500 more miners, not including its effect on 150,000 miners in the anthracite field, who were last night ordered to suspend work Monday. A national convention of the miners will be held today to decide whether miners will be allowed to sign the advance scale demanded and today refused by all operators with a few exceptions, and to go to work where the advance is offered. Operators employing 25,000 miners in the central competitive field have openly offered to pay the advance during the joint conference sessions.

The wage scales of all miners, both anthracite and bituminous, will expire Saturday, except those in Tennessee and Alabama, where the scale will expire in September. One national office of the United Mineworkers said:

"It is a foregone conclusion that all the miners whose scales expire Saturday will cease work until officially notified by the national and district officers that new contract arrangements have been made governing their scale."

PROGRAM FOR CONGRESS.

Pan-American Committee Prepares Subjects for Action.

Washington, March 30.—A program of subjects to be considered at the Pan-American congress to be held in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, beginning July 21, was agreed on today by the committee of the congress having that matter in charge, of which Secretary Root is chairman. In addition to Mr. Root the committee is made up of the ambassadors from Brazil and Mexico and the ministers from Chile, the Argentine Republic, Cuba and Costa Rica.

The subjects include sanitary and quarantine regulations, uniformity of patent laws, international recognition of diplomas of practitioners of the learned professions, questions affecting commercial intercourse and an international railroad.

It is expected that what is commonly known as the Drago doctrine, which is opposed to the forcible collection of private debts by one nation from another, a doctrine adhered to by the United States, will come up for consideration in some form.

IOWA WILL INVESTIGATE.

Legislature Orders Inquiry Into Violation of Insurance Law.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 30.—As a result of practically unanimous action by both houses of the Iowa legislature today, an investigation of insurance companies is to be undertaken in this state during the present summer, similar to that which was conducted in New York last fall. The resolution which awaits the governor's signature provides for the appointment of a commission to inquire into rumored abuse of Iowa insurance laws by state and Eastern companies, to conduct an inquisitorial investigation whenever in the commission's opinion it is desirable, and report to the legislature of next year what changes should be made in the law to prevent a recurrence of any abuses that may exist.

Road Tied Up for Two Weeks.

Los Angeles, March 30.—The local railroad situation resulting from floods in Southern California and vicinity is even worse than has yet been described. It is given out from the office of General Manager Wells, of the Salt Lake route, that the washouts between Caliente and Las Vegas are so serious that the roadbed cannot be repaired short of two weeks to admit the passage of trains. The Southern Pacific also reports further trouble today. Another washout has occurred somewhere in the San Joaquin valley.

Germany Hungry for Islands.

London, March 30.—The London Times correspondent at Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, states that, according to reports from the Fiji islands, a German syndicate, probably backed by the German government, is trying to secure the ownership of Fanning island, which will be sold at auction April 17. It is feared that the transfer of the ownership may prove a hindrance to the station of the British Pacific cable on the island.

Referendum on Statehood.

Washington, March 30.—That the senate and house will reach a compromise agreement on the statehood bill, which will permit Arizona and New Mexico each to decide for themselves the question of their admission as one state, seems a correct solution from present indications.

FLOOD WRECKS IRRIGATION DAM

High Water Causes the Government Much Damage in Wyoming.

North Platte River Tears Away Diversion Dam, Bridge and Many Houses—Thousands of Sheep and Cattle Drown in Raging Torrent—Workmen Narrowly Escape.

Casper, Wyo., March 29.—The North Platte river has been rising at an alarming rate during the past 48 hours, due to the rapid melting of snow of the previous week. The great diversion dam at Alvo, erected by the Reclamation service as a temporary structure to divert the waters of the river while the Pathfinder dam is being built, has been washed away, and its loss will seriously interrupt the completion of the government enterprise.

Although the heavy rains of the last few days has caused much apprehension among residents of this part of Wyoming, none were prepared for the overthrow of such a piece of engineering as the huge dam. When the waters swept through the immense masonry, many workmen barely escaped with their lives. The dam had been built at a cost of nearly \$100,000.

The steel bridge built by the government six miles below the dam at Pathfinder was also carried away. Small cabins, barns and property of all descriptions are floating down the swollen stream, which is spreading over the lowlands and causing great loss to stockmen and ranchmen. Miles upon miles of the lowlands are flooded, and it is feared much stock is drowned.

A report from Lander says that 3,000 sheep belonging to Charles Souther, which were shut in a large shed, were drowned and swept away.

PERKINS ARRESTED.

Charged With Giving Away Large Sums of Insurance Money.

New York, March 29.—On a charge that his connection with the contribution of \$48,702.50 from the funds of the New York Life Insurance company to Iornelius N. Blies, treasurer of the Republican National committee in the campaign of 1904, constituted grand larceny in the first degree, George W. Perkins, a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and until recently first vice president of the New York Life Insurance company, was arrested today on a warrant issued by City Magistrate Moss. When a detective went to serve the warrant upon Mr. Perkins, he found that a writ of habeas corpus had already been obtained from Justice Greenbaum, of the State Supreme court, and the matter was immediately taken out of the hands of the magistrate. Mr. Perkins appeared before Justice Greenbaum and, at the request of his counsel, the hearing was adjourned until tomorrow. Mr. Perkins was paroled in the custody of his personal attorney, Lewis A. Delafield.

GREAT SMELTER BURNED.

Immense Plant in Wyoming Destroyed When About to Start.

Grand Encampment, Wyo., March 29.—The great smelting, concentrating and electric and steam power plant of the Penn-Wyoming Copper company was practically destroyed by fire today, entailing a loss estimated at \$300,000, insurance half that amount. The smelter building was saved after a hard fight by the fire department. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The plant had been closed down for the winter on account of the deep snow and improvements under way. Preparations were on foot to resume next month.

The fire will bring the business to a standstill for months. The Penn-Wyoming company handled the copper ores of a large part of the Encampment district in addition to the ores from its own mine, the Rudeha.

Legislates Out Officers.

Albany, N. Y., March 29.—The insurance bill postponing mutual insurance elections until November 15 was passed in the senate unanimously. The bill as passed by the senate was reported to the assembly late in the afternoon and was substituted for the identical assembly bill, which was on the order of their reading. This will probably bring it up for final passage tomorrow, and there is little doubt that it will be passed without material opposition and set at once to the governor for his approval.

Puts Screws on Castro.

Paris, March 29.—Announcement is made that France considers Venezuela has forfeited her right to the privileged tariff by extending the diplomatic rupture to the commercial and personal relations of French subjects. The French government therefore is arranging to apply the maximum tariff on all Venezuelan goods, particularly coffee, which is now paying 133 francs, when it should be paying 300 francs per hundred kilos.

No Coal on Iowa Market.

Des Moines, March 29.—In anticipation of a strike April 1, the visible supply of coal in Des Moines and Iowa has been absorbed by railroads and factories to the extent that not a pound of commercial coal can be had at any price. No orders for coal are taken by dealers at any price and other kinds of fuel are bringing exorbitant prices.

IN MEMORY OF THE LOST AT SEA.



PATHETIC SCENE IN A FISHING VILLAGE CHURCHYARD, BRITAIN.

At the little fishing village of Plonbazanec, near Paimpol (twenty-five miles from St. Brieuc) there is in the churchyard a wall, called le mur des disparus, on which are placed tablets, crosses, and other memorials to those who have been drowned at sea, and whose bodies have never been recovered. The fishermen on this coast, it should be said, mostly go to the coast of Iceland for their fish. The memorials are mainly of wood, those painted black being in memory of married men, and the white indicating that the lost sailor in question was unmarried. It is pathetic to see the women in this corner of the churchyard on Sunday, after mass, praying for the souls of their lost husbands, brothers, or sons; and the scene brings forcibly to one's mind the fact that the women of fisherfolk have their share to bear of the hardships attached to the men's perilous calling.

Science AND Invention

Sodium or zinc-silicate, in a hot one-half or one per cent solution, is a new French preservative and fireproofing for wood, especially for mines.

Passing bubbles under ships by an air jet, or lubricating with kerosene oil two or three times a day, has been suggested as a means of lessening friction.

The "recognition-sense" of ants is found by H. Pelron to be a recognition of odor by the antennae. The usual hostilities of ants ceased when those of the stranger species or community were given their own odor, while after losing their antennae they fought friend and foe alike.

During the last twenty years 2,061 balloon and air ship ascents have taken place in Germany and only thirty-six cases of accident have befallen the 7,570 persons taking part in them. Consequently one trip in fifty-seven comes to grief, or one aeronaut in 210 meets with an accident.

Sir Robert Ball, who has been lecturing on the glacial epoch, informed his hearers recently that the next ice age is due 200,000 winters hence. Then, he says, all northern Europe and America will be once more under an ice cap that will cover the highest mountains and last for many thousands of years.

In a novel device for preventing the racing of propellers, a pendulum gravitates with the vessel's motion. The pendulum is connected to the throttle-valve, and as the stern rises steam is gradually shut off up to the point where the engines are stopped altogether, the valve being reopened as the propeller begins to take water again.

For the purpose of studying the causes of mountain sickness, two French medical authorities, Drs. Guillemark and Moog, during last July made a stay at the Mont Blanc observatory. According to the results of their investigations, which have now been published, "the diminished tension of the oxygen of the atmosphere clogs the process of oxidation and this sets up an elaboration of toxic substances, the retention of which causes symptoms of auto-intoxication."

A recent discussion of the duration of life among birds in the English periodical, Knowledge, recalls the story of a venerable parrot which Humboldt saw during his travels in South America, and which, although very venerable, could not be understood by anybody, because the words it used belonged to the language of a tribe of Indians who had become extinct since the aged bird took its lessons. Parrots are proverbially long-lived, and so are ravens and some species of vultures. A white-headed vulture died in the zoological gardens at Vienna after 118 years of captivity.

Recent experience with the acetylene blowpipe in England has approved it as a valuable invention. It produces a temperature exceeding 7,000 degrees. The temperature producible by the oxygen-hydrogen blowpipe, 3,000 degrees to 4,500 degrees, is limited by the dissociation temperature of steam, whereas with acetylene the limit is that of the dissociation temperature of carbon monoxide, which is much higher. The acetylene, in a dissolved state, is used in conjunction with oxygen. It splits up into its constituents, hydrogen and carbon, at the base of the flame, and the carbon only takes part in the burning. The hydrogen remains free and forms a protection to the small cone at the nozzle, where the carbon is burning, and which is the point of maximum temperature.

PARIS PICTURE-TRADE TRICKS.

How Curio Hunters Are Swindled in Their Art Purchases.

Falsification of pictures in Paris has become a scandal, which a case heard by the tenth correctional court is likely to emphasize, says the London Standard. The case was simple. A Frenchman with a Spanish name and an Italian with a French name kept a curi-

ously shop—a collection of old furniture and old pictures scattered about in two front rooms, and spilling over on to the pavement, after the fashion of curiosity shops in the Rue de Provence. Some of the curios were really old; others were only old in appearance. There were several "examples of modern French artists"—the whole being arranged in perfect fashion for taking in a foreign or provincial bargain hunter.

The tricks of the trade were not discovered for a long time, but in 1903 the cosmopolitan firm sold five pictures represented to be the works of Chapin, Henner, Ziem and Boucher. These pictures, bought for about £1,500, were given by the purchaser to his daughter as a marriage gift. Some time later the young woman got a divorce and went to live with her father, taking the pictures with her. A friend who happened to be an expert pointed out that they were all false and worth only a tenth of what had been given for them. The dealers were prosecuted and one of them fled, leaving the other to get out of the mess as well as he could. This young man, versed in all the ins and outs of his dubious calling, patched up a very ingenious defense. He quoted mistakes made by the Louvre experts and other less remarkable cases to show that he might well have been deceived himself in pictures which were undoubtedly good imitations. The defense might have been successful had not the prosecuting barister asked for the receipts given to the defendant when he bought the pictures. One of them was signed by a Count del Drago, who was brought up from prison at Fresnes, and he admitted having signed a bogus receipt for £200, although he made nothing out of the transaction.

Go Quietly.

When the middle-aged lawyer of whom the Washington Post tells was a young man he had a position in the office of a man who has a great reputation for ability and integrity.

Naturally the young man felt his responsibility. It was soon plain to him that the head of the firm had outlived his usefulness, and the youngster used to feel sorry to think what would happen to his employer if he ever left him. The young man was not treated in that office with all the deference he thought due him, and one day, when somebody went too far, he entered his employer's private office and unburdened his mind.

Sheer magnanimity made him overlook a lot of things, but he did not neglect to say that he would not endure such treatment another day. He was going to leave, and at once. Then he paused to give the head of the firm a chance to apologize and beg him not to ruin him by leaving.

His employer did not look up from his desk. He simply said to the young man, in a polite tone: "Please don't slam the door when you go out."

The Man Who Struck the King.

The Earl of Wemyss, who, though an octogenarian, is one of the most fiery members of the upper house, may boast of being the only man who has ever struck the King in public. It occurred when his Majesty was Prince of Wales, and in the House of Lords during a debate.

The Prince, as Duke of Cornwall, attended, and sat immediately before Lord Wemyss. The noble lord made a speech, during which he, as usual, became heated, and, in the course of a gesture, brought his fist down bang on his Royal Highness's hat.

The Prince, appreciating the force of the Earl's argument, retired to a place further from him. Lord Wemyss was well known, before succeeding to the earldom, as Lord Elcho, an enthusiast of volunteering and rifle shooting.—Pearson's Weekly.

Hearts and Spades.

"I see that one of these Panama canal commissioners says that the hearts of the helpers along the big ditch are in the work.

"Seems to me it would be a good deal more encouraging if their spades were in it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Don't expect others to think well of you unless you are that kind of a thinker yourself.