

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Friday, May 4.
Washington, May 4.—In accordance with the agreement of last Monday, the senate today entered upon the consideration of amendments to the rate bill under the 15-minute rule, but made little progress. The greater part of the day was devoted to Lodge's provision bringing pipe lines within the terms of the bill, and it was ultimately unanimously agreed to, after being so amended as to make it exclude gas and water lines from its operation, thus practically confining it to oil lines. There were two roll-calls, but neither was of importance, as on the one accepting the amendment there was no division whatever, while the action taken on the other, on the question of confining the provision to oil lines, was practically nullified by the subsequent elimination of gas and water from the amendment.

Washington, May 4.—The house spent another day in consideration of the naval appropriation bill, the speeches in large measure being in support of the bill and the naval program therein outlined. Burton, of Ohio, delivered a scholarly address against what seemed the needless enlargement of the navy, contending that the American nation could well afford to serve notice upon the other nations that it stood for international arbitration and the peace of the world.

Thursday, May 3.
Washington, May 3.—The naval appropriation bill, which carries nearly a hundred million dollars for the naval establishment, was taken up by the House today. Beyond the explanation of the bill by Foss of Illinois, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, and the running fire of questions which his presentation called forth, little interest was shown in the early part of the debate that ensued. Toward the close of the day, however, a lively colloquy occurred among Bates of Pennsylvania, Williams of Mississippi, Clark of Missouri, and Payne of New York, over certain statements made by Bates in relation to the price of steel rails. The discussion took on a wide tariff range, a forerunner of still further tariff discussion as the session nears its close.

Washington, May 3.—This was the last day for general debate in the Senate on the railroad rate bill, and it was fully occupied. Following a brief speech by Nelson, Tillman spoke at length in an effort to show by criticism of individual judges that the power of granting temporary injunctions by the superior United States courts should be taken from them in Interstate Commerce Commission cases, and he was followed by Bacon, Bailey, Teller and Foraker in speeches at some length. Bailey opposed Bacon's contention that the judiciary should not be criticized on the floor of the Senate. Consideration of the army appropriation bill was resumed, and after further amendment it was passed.

Wednesday, May 2.
Washington, May 2.—Daniel continued his speech on the railroad rate bill in the senate today, reporting briefly his objections to Bailey's proviso for the non-suspension by the courts of the orders of the interstate commerce commission. In cases where the courts have suspended the rates of the commission, Mr. Daniel suggested that a substantial bond be required of the railroads.

The rate bill was then temporarily laid aside, and the army appropriation bill taken up. An important amendment authorizes the establishment of a general depot for supplies at Fort Mason, San Francisco, and appropriates \$1,500,000 for the purpose. Of the amount appropriated, \$750,000 is made immediately available.

Tuesday, May 1.
Washington, May 1.—By a vote of 153 to 58 the House today decided to continue the free distribution of garden and flower seeds. Many of the items in the agricultural bill broadening the scope of the Bureau of Chemistry and Dr. Wiley's department were eliminated on points of order, particularly those relating to the adulteration of foods, condiments, drugs and beverages. Considerable progress was made on the bill.

No Cash to Clear Streets.
San Francisco, May 1.—Money for clearing the streets of debris was cut off this morning, and the work consequently ceased, but a great deal of progress has been made upon the principal thoroughfares within the last fortnight. Probably one-tenth of the streets in the burned district are now passable. Lack of funds and ignorance of the amount of the appropriation to be given by the finance committee have, according to Commissioner Thomas Egan, retarded the operations of the Board of Public Works in clearing the streets of debris and garbage and repairing the sewers.

Hermann Still Fights Delay.
Washington, May 1.—Representative Hermann has about abandoned hope of being brought to trial in this city on the letter-book indictment before Fall. District Attorney Baker insists upon postponement on account of the enforced absence of Special Prosecutor Henny from this city. Tomorrow Judge Gould will give Hermann's attorney an opportunity to show cause why the trial should not be postponed; but there is little expectation that he will disregard the wishes of the Government prosecutors.

after the free-seed proposition was out of the way, and the bill will be completed tomorrow.

Washington, May 1.—The proceedings in the Senate today included an extended discussion of the railroad rate bill by Daniel, an explanation of the status of the appropriation for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in California by Allison and a controversy among several Senators as to the propriety of adopting without referring to a committee a resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to General Horace Porter for his services in recovering the body of John Paul Jones from its long lost resting place in Paris. In the last mentioned proceedings Aldrich opposed action by the Senate in advance of committee consideration, and succeeded in having the measure referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Monday, April 30.
Washington, April 30.—The senate will begin voting on the amendments to the railroad rate bill on Friday, May 4. An agreement to that effect was reported today, but it proved impossible to extend the understanding as to have it include the fixing of a date for taking a final vote on the bill as a whole. Tillman first proposed a final vote on May 9, and Morgan was the only senator to make objection. His opposition was sufficient, however, to frustrate the design, and the next most feasible course, the disposition of amendments, was decided upon. The general impression among senators is that the final vote will be reported within a week from the time of the beginning of the consideration of amendments. Most of the time of the senate was devoted to listening to a speech by Clarke of Arkansas, in which he criticized the Hepburn bill as injudicious to remedy existing conditions.

The house bill appropriating \$170,000 for the emergency needs of the navy department at Mare Island, and for the postal service at San Francisco, made necessary by the earthquake, was passed by the senate when it convened today.

Washington, April 30.—This was both a field day and a "seed" day in the house, the major portion of the legislative session being given over to the consideration of the agricultural bill and, incident thereto, the free distribution of seeds, for which the bill does not provide, but which it is agreed will be restored to the bill.

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Statehood Compromise.
Washington, May 5.—All of the minor amendments to the statehood bill are either disposed of or in shape to be made the foundation of argument at a moment's notice.

Were Cruel to Insane.
Washington, May 5.—Inquiry into the conditions at St. Elizabeth's asylum for the insane was begun today by the special committee of the house of representatives appointed by Speaker Cannon. Nearly a dozen witnesses were heard. Evidence was adduced showing that some of the patients who worked in the hospital laundry had been cruelly treated, and some of the witnesses testified that Foreman E. L. Maench, of the laundry, frequently was intoxicated while on duty.

Protests Against Barnes.
Washington, May 1.—The nomination of B. F. Barnes, assistant secretary to President Roosevelt, to be postmaster at Washington was before the Senate in executive session today. No action was taken. Senator Calhoun stated that a general protest had been filed by citizens against the confirmation of Mr. Barnes, and the postoffice committee had failed to give the protests the consideration of an investigation. The charges relate to the action of Mr. Barnes in having Mrs. Minor Morris ejected from the White House, and that the office should be given to a citizen.

FIRE PANIC IN BIG HOSPITAL

Blazing Laundry Causes Patients to Flee Half-Clad.
San Francisco, May 4.—The 700 patients in the general hospital at the Presidio were thrown into a panic at 4:15 o'clock this morning by the cry of "fire."

At that moment flames were discovered in the hospital laundry, which was only a few yards away. The close proximity of the two buildings gave rise to the fear that the hospital would be destroyed.

In anticipation of such a contingency hurried arrangements were made for the removal of the patients to a place of safety.

For a few minutes, until the fire in the laundry was gotten under control and there was no danger of the flames spreading beyond that building, pandemonium reigned among the hundreds of patients.

Those who were not dangerously ill, or could help themselves, jumped from their cots and beds, and, hastily donning what clothes they could find, fled from the hospital out into the cool morning air.

Many of the indisposed men and women did not wait to secure their clothes, but wrapped themselves in bedding and made their exit as quickly as possible.

In more than one instance men and women fled out into the air with nothing but their night clothes. Scores of patients who had the physical strength stopped sufficiently long to assist more weak and unstrung men and women from the hospital.

Within 15 minutes after the alarm was given the majority of the patients had left the hospital building and stood in groups or lay upon the ground upon bed clothes, watching the firemen and soldiers fight the flames in the laundry.

When the flames had been extinguished the nurses, physicians and soldiers turned their attention to the patient-refugees, and assisted in taking them back to their cots and beds in private rooms and wards.

Men and women became hysterical during the progress of the fire, and it was with difficulty that many of them could be induced to return to the hospital. It is feared that the shock to many of the more seriously sick patients will have a serious if not fatal effect.

When the fire was discovered in the hospital a general alarm was sounded. Besides the regular post-fire department hundreds of soldiers turned out to fight the flames. It was only by hard work that the flames were confined to the laundry, which, with its contents, was entirely destroyed, and prevented from spreading to the general hospital.

LIMIT OF INSURANCE PAID.

Companies Will Be Generous, but Not Exceed Legal Liability.
New York, May 4.—The Tribune today says:

Representatives of both foreign and American fire insurance companies, who were in the city yesterday, discussed action to effect a compromise in the adjustment of losses by the San Francisco fire.

The great companies express a strong purpose to be not only just, but generous in cases of doubt, but one insurance president said:

"The adjusters for this company will not be allowed to waive the conditions of its policies, nor the conditions and restrictions of its charters. We have no more right to pay a loss occasioned by earthquake than we have to pay a loss of life. We are not an earthquake insurance company, nor a life insurance company."

Insurance men estimate that the companies will ultimately pay from 60 to 75 per cent of the aggregate amount of the risk.

The message from London insurance companies to adjusters in Oakland, published this morning, should have read: "Under any circumstances, the British offices will only pay the losses for which they are legally liable, since to go beyond their contracts would be illegal."

"They cannot recognize any liability for damage by earthquake where no fire ensued, nor for damage by fire to fallen or partly fallen buildings, nor for damages to buildings pulled down or destroyed by order of the San Francisco authorities."

Heavy Loss in San Mateo County.
San Mateo, Cal., May 4.—The losses in San Mateo County resulting from the recent earthquake can never be even approximately estimated. Practically every building in the county suffered some damage in chimneys, plaster, broken furniture or crockery. Here, as elsewhere, brick and stone buildings suffered the most. The loss of life was small. In Half-Moon Bay a painter and two children were killed in the collapse of an old adobe building. The heaviest losses were in Redwood City, where the new \$150,000 courthouse was almost totally destroyed.

Germany Refuses Help.
Constantinople, May 4.—It is reported here that the Sultan has decided to give way to the British government on the Egyptian boundary dispute, having been influenced to that decision by a hint from the French, Italian and Russian Ambassadors, who have told him that he could not expect any sympathy from them. France, it is understood, took a positive stand for Britain and her Ambassador told the Sultan that she was with Great Britain in any act on that question.

STANDARD SINS ARE LAID BARE

Preldent Tells Congress What Garfield Found.
Washington, May 5.—President Roosevelt today transmitted to congress the report of James R. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, giving the results of his investigation of the subject of transportation and freight rates in connection with the oil industry.

In his message the president expresses the view that the report is of capital importance, because of the effort now being made to secure such enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission as will confer upon the commission power in some measure adequate to meet the clearly demonstrated needs of the situation.

The facts set forth in the report, he declares, are for the most part not disputed.

That the Standard Oil Company has benefited enormously up almost to the present moment by secret rates, many of which were clearly unlawful, the president says the report clearly shows, the benefit thereby secured amounting to at least three-quarters of a million dollars a year.

The statement is added that the department of justice will take up the question of instituting prosecutions in at least certain of the cases, and the hope is expressed that congress will enact into law the bill of Senator Knox to correct the interpretation of the immunity provision rendered in Judge Humphrey's decision.

The president calls attention to that feature of the report regarding the manner in which the law is evaded by treating as state commerce what in reality is merely a part of interstate commerce. He says it is clearly shown:

"That this device is employed on the New York Central Railroad, as well as on many other railroads, in such fashion as to amount to thwarting the purpose of the law, although the forms of the law may be complied with."

It is unfortunately not true, he says, that the Standard Oil Company is the only corporation which has benefited and is benefiting in wholly improper fashion by an elaborate series of rate discriminations.

The sugar trust, he adds, according to the results of the investigation now in progress, rarely, if ever, pays the lawful rate for transportation.

He declares that in the effort to prevent the railroads from uniting for improper purposes, "we have very unwisely prohibited them from uniting for proper purposes; that is, for purposes of protecting themselves and the general public as against the power of the great corporations."

He favors as an element of competition the passage of some such law as that which has already passed the house, putting alcohol used in the arts and manufactures on the free list and keeping the fee to oil and coal lands of the Indian tribes or on the public domain in the government, the lands to be leased only on such terms and for such periods as will enable the government to entirely control them.

CARRIED 300,000 REFUGEES.

Southern Pacific Says Few People Left City Permanently.
Chicago, May 5.—According to official figures, the Southern Pacific Company, during the exodus from San Francisco following the earthquake and the great fire, carried 300,000 free passengers. This total is for the nine days from April 18 up to and including April 26. Of these passengers, 67,000 were carried to interior California points, 7,684 to other states and 226,000 to suburban points around San Francisco bay. The value of these free transportations is estimated at \$456,000. This comprises only the movement from San Francisco; figures as yet not having been compiled on the free transportation from Santa Rosa, Vallejo, Sacramento and Stockton.

In the opinion of Traffic Manager Fee, the most encouraging feature of the situation is the fact that not only are most of the refugees staying in California, but that three-fourths of them have found temporary homes within easy reach of the city.

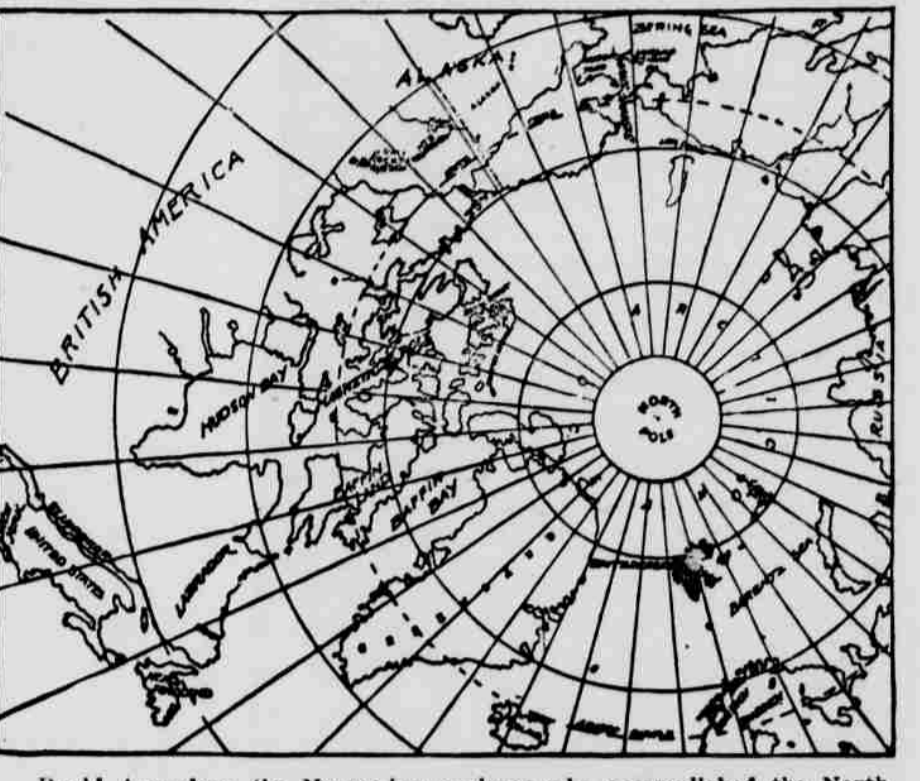
Rates Raised Wantonly.
Chicago, May 5.—Declaring that the railroads were oppressing and discriminating against its members, and had been so doing for the past six years, the American Shippers' Association met today at the Auditorium Annex and decided to enlarge its scope and influence. The association at present includes a majority of the large shippers of the country, and it is probable in the near future the interstate commerce commission will be petitioned to make a thorough inquiry into the railroads' actions in arbitrarily increasing the freight rates on a number of classifications in the last six years.

More Time for Smoot Case.
Washington, May 5.—The senate committee on privileges and elections today considered the Smoot case, but in view of statements of several senators that they desired to review certain features of the testimony, a vote was postponed until May 18. It was agreed, however, that a vote shall be had on that day.

During the discussion Dubois offered the following resolution: "Resolved, that Reed Smoot is not entitled to his seat as a senator of the United States from the State of Utah."

Mint Paid Out Over \$7,000,000.
San Francisco, May 5.—The United States mint, which is being used as a general clearing house for the banks, has paid out between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000 to depositors since it opened Tuesday last.

MAP OF ARCTIC REGIONS SHOWING LOCATION OF THE POLE.



Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer who accomplished the North-west Passage last year, is credited with the further achievement of having located the north magnetic pole. (See black star on left of the map.) He has definitely fixed the position of this pole in King William Land, not far from the position ascribed to it by Sir John Ross in 1831. In commenting on Amundsen's achievement the National Geographic Magazine said: "The new knowledge which his observations will give us of the character and influence of the magnetic pole will prove of immense value in the study of magnetic variations. Magnetic deviation of the needle is one of the principal uncertainties with which mariners have to contend. Terrestrial magnetism is a mysterious force. Nearly every year we have a magnetic storm, which interrupts our telegraph wires several hours. Whence it comes or what it is we know not. The eruption of Mont Pelee was accompanied by magnetic waves, which were simultaneously recorded in Hawaii, Alaska, the United States and Europe. All this makes the magnetic work of Amundsen particularly valuable, and we must remember that was the main object of his expedition."



The banana and potato are almost identical in chemical composition. There are no undertakers in Japan. When a person dies his nearest relatives put him into a coffin and bury him. The morning does not begin until after burial.

India rubber trees which are tapped every other day continue to yield sap for more than twenty years; and it is a curious fact that the oldest and most frequently tapped trees produce the richest sap.

The most costly leather in the world is known to the trade as the piano leather. The secret of preparing this is only known to one family of tanners in Germany, though the skins from which it is tanned come almost entirely from America.

Poisoning from gas inhalation is now added to the recognized dangers of ballooning. The hydrogen itself non-poisonous—is often contaminated with arsenic, selenium, and antimony, and fourteen cases of ill effects have been reported to the French Academy of Medicine. In one of the two forms of poisoning death results in two or three days.

New wonders may be expected in a little known field of exploration since the invention of a young naval engineer by the name of De Plury, of a kind of metal armor with a special chemical combination for providing respiration automatically. By means of this dress he has succeeded in sinking 330 feet, a much greater depth than has ever before been reached by any diver.

To tell the points of the compass by a watch, point the hour hand at the sun; then south is halfway between the hour hand and the figure 12 of the dial. To measure an angle by a watch lay two straight-edged pieces of paper on the angle, crossing at the apex. Holding them where they overlap, lay them on the face of the watch, with the apex at the center. Read the angle by the minutes of the dial, each minute being 6 degrees of arc. It is easy to measure within 2 or 3 degrees in this way.

An indication of the rapidly growing interest in underground water supplies, even in States where the rainfall is abundant and the soil naturally fertile, is given by the program just prepared for the work of the coming season by the Geological Survey of Illinois. A special department of the work will be devoted to the study of the underground water of that State, in order to determine the limits of what are called the "Artesian basins," and the various depths to which it may be necessary to penetrate in different localities to obtain good water for municipal and agricultural purposes. All the waters will be carefully analyzed and subjected to laboratory tests, and thus it is hoped that the work of developing new water supplies will be put upon a thoroughly scientific footing.

A recent English traveler in China describes some remarkable examples of sounding stones, or "stone gongs," which he saw at Chufu, the birthplace and burial place of Confucius. One of the stones, which are composed of a grayish oolitic limestone, has been shaped into a cover for an incense dish placed in front of the tomb of the grandson of Confucius. When struck with a stick, or with the knuckles, it rings like bronze, and the sound is so distinct that it is difficult to believe, without inspection, that the object is not really composed of metal. Sounding stones are known in other countries. A correspondent of Nature describes a bridge at Corick, in County Mayo, Ireland, which is locally known as the "musical bridge," because the stones forming the coping give out a musical note when struck.

MILEAGE OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.

One Little Red Corpuscle May Travel 108 Miles in a Single Day.
The speed at which the blood circulates in the veins and arteries of a healthy man is something surprising. All day long, year in and year out, the round trips continue from the heart to the extremities and back again. The red blood corpuscles travel like boats in a stream, going to this or that station for such service as they have to perform, and the white corpuscles, the phagocytes, dart hither and thither like patrol boats, ready to arrest any contraband cargo of disease germs.

The mileage of the blood circulation reveals some astounding facts in our personal history. Thus it has been calculated that, assuming the heart to beat sixty-nine times a minute at ordinary heart pressure, the blood goes at the rate of two hundred and seven yards in the minute, or seven miles per hour, one hundred and sixty-eight miles per day and six thousand three hundred and twenty miles per year. If a man of 64 years of age could have one single blood corpuscle floating in his blood all his life it would have traveled in that same time five million one hundred and fifty thousand eight hundred and eight miles.

Funny He Didn't Remember.
One day last week Mayor Fitzgerald, as busy as the three bees that he is trying to make Boston, came tripping into the city hall from the School street entrance. In the corridor he was met by a seely-looking individual who held up his honor, put out a grimy paw with the salutation: "How are you today, Mr. Mayor?" "Very well, sir," was the response, as he grasped the hand of the unknown.

"You don't seem to know me, do you, Mr. Mayor?"
"Well, to be candid with you, I cannot say that I do, but I am glad to meet you."
"Don't you remember the day you were elected?"
"Well, I ought to," said the mayor. "Just think a bit what you did that night. Don't you remember that you went down to the Quincey House to meet your friends?"
"I certainly do," said the mayor. "It will always remain with me one of the pleasantest memories of my life."
"Don't you remember coming out on the balcony and addressing a crowd of 5,000 or more persons in front of the hotel?"
"Yes, sir, I do, very distinctly," said his honor.

"Well, I was the fellow that wore the brown hat," concluded the unknown.—Boston Post.

Sketches Nova Zembla.
Alexander Alexewitch Borissoff has started from St. Petersburg on a tour abroad with twenty-six oil paintings and sketches which represent the outcome of a voyage to Nova Zembla undertaken toward the end of the nineties at the expense of the Czar. In 1896 he made a trip to Nova Zembla, bringing back with him a series of remarkable sketches. In 1899 he built the yacht Mezta (The Dream), in Archangel and sailed in her to Nova Zembla, where he erected a shelter with wood he had brought, and finished many sketches of Matschki Sebar (the straits dividing Nova Zembla) and also of the Carle Sea. During the winter pastel drawings or charcoal sketches only were possible; in spring brush and palette could again be used.—London Sphere.

Did Not Need to Propose.
"He's so bashful that he never could propose to a woman."
"Oh, I guess not. He's married, you know."
"Yes, but he married a widow, didn't he?"—Cleveland Leader.

"Everything," says every woman complaining when getting a meal ready for company, "has to be done at the last moment."