

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Saturday, May 12.

Washington, May 12.—The senate proceedings today were devoted exclusively to the consideration of the railroad rate bill, and they included many interesting and some sensational features. The actual accomplishments of the day consisted in the completion of the consideration of the Allison amendments, covering the question of review by courts of the orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

There were several of these provisions and all were accepted as presented or suggested by the Iowa senator, showing an almost perfect agreement among Republican senators. Indeed, one of the noteworthy features of the day was the practical unanimity of the Republicans. They not only voted almost solidly for the Allison amendments, but were just as nearly united against opposing propositions. When an adjournment was reached, there was still prospect of the continuance of the debate for next week.

Friday, May 11.

Washington, May 11.—After passing 320 pension bills, the house today devoted much time to considering a point of order made by Tawney against an appropriation for a new steel floating drydock, provided in the naval appropriation bill. The chair held the point of order well taken, in a carefully prepared opinion.

Hepburn, of Iowa, made a vigorous attack on the court martial system of the navy, especially criticizing the officers responsible for the accidents that have happened to ships of the navy.

A point of order against the appropriation for the naval training station at Lake Bluff, Illinois, was pending when the house adjourned until Monday.

Washington, May 11.—Bailey's non-suspension amendment, applying to orders of the Interstate Commerce commission as covered by the railroad rate bill, which has occupied so much of the attention of the senate in connection with that bill, was today adversely disposed of by the decisive vote of 23 to 54, practically a party vote.

An amendment by Rayner confining the court review to constitutional questions was also voted down. A number of other amendments were rejected.

An amendment limiting to two years the life of the commission's orders was adopted.

Thursday, May 10.

Washington, May 10.—In connection with the consideration of the railroad rate bill by the senate, La Follette today attempted to secure the imposition of imprisonment for violations of the provisions of the Interstate Commerce law. He proposed terms from one to five years, in addition to fines from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for unjust discrimination, for false representation to secure business at less than the established rate.

After much discussion an amendment was adopted restoring the penalties of the old law.

Washington, May 10.—Shells and projectiles for the navy department will, after June 30, 1906, be purchased by the bureau of Ordnance in the open market, instead of, as now the practice, in secret markets from firms engaged in the manufacture of these articles. This change in existing conditions was brought about through the efforts of the chairman of the appropriations committee, Tawney, of Minnesota, who offered an amendment to the naval appropriation bills which the house had under consideration today.

Wednesday, May 9.

Washington, May 9.—The senate spent the greater part of the day again in the consideration of the question of divorcing the production of coal and other commodities from their transportation, and closed that branch of its work by adopting a modified provision formally offered by Elkins, but originally suggested by McLaurin. There was again much sparring over parliamentary points, but there was at no time as much confusion as on Tuesday, and, when the coal question was finally closed, the progress was so rapid that the first section was entirely disposed of before the senate adjourned. Other amendments were also adopted, but a long and short-haul provision suggested by La Follette was voted down by practically a party vote, all but two Republicans voting against the amendment.

May Vary Size of Farms.

Washington, May 8.—The house today passed the bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to fix farm units on government irrigation projects anywhere from 10 to 160 acres, according to the productivity of the soil and the kinds of crops that can be raised. The bill contains a provision authorizing the sale of lots in the townships of Rupert, Heyburn and Shiner, Idaho, the expenses to be defrayed from the reclamation fund. Until this bill passes, these lots cannot be sold, for the land office has no funds to sell them under the general townsite laws.

Yellow Macaroni Is Banned.

Washington, May 8.—The department of agriculture today announced that inspection of recent importations of macaroni, noodles, and similar products, contain chemical preservatives, such as fluorides, which are regarded as injurious to health, and that after June 1 next no importation of macaroni colored with mastic yellow, or other colors forbidden by the Italian law, or preserved with fluorides or other preservatives injurious to health, will be permitted.

Washington, May 9.—Nearly the entire time of the house was today taken up by two propositions—first, whether the navy department should go into the open market and purchase anchors, chains and cordage, or continue to manufacture these articles in the government navy yards, as is now done; and, second, whether the cost of transporting coal from Atlantic and Gulf ports to the Philippines in American bottoms should be limited to \$5 or \$6 per ton.

On the first proposition a substitute was adopted, giving the secretary of the navy the right to purchase these articles in open market if a saving could be made.

The second proposition did not carry.

Tuesday, May 8.

Washington, May 8.—Aside from a few minutes devoted to the reception of the Allison amendments to the railroad rate bill and a half hour given to routine business, the senate devoted its entire session today to the ineffectual consideration of the Elkins amendment, prohibiting common carriers from engaging in mining coal or in the production of other commodities in competition with shippers, and adjourned at 5 p. m. in a state of great confusion as to the exact subject before it. The disorder was due to the fact that a number of substitutes for amendments to the original amendment were introduced. During the day, the senate decided in the affirmative the disputed point that under the agreement the chair can entertain a motion to lay on the table. It refused, however, by a vote of 29 to 47 to lay the Elkins provision on the table. That amendment and the various motions will therefore be in order when the rate bill is taken up tomorrow.

Washington, May 8.—The House of Representatives devoted the day to the naval appropriation bill, and accomplished the reading for amendment of the first 15 pages. During this time several topics incident to the measure were discussed, including the difficulty of obtaining enlisted men in the navy, the location of the naval training station on the Great Lakes, the cost of smokeless powder, and finally the expenditure of \$200,000 a year for chains for ships. This last matter was under consideration when the House adjourned.

The army appropriation bill was sent to conference with all of the Senate amendments disagreed to.

Monday, May 7.

Washington, May 7.—The senate today spent the major portion of its time in one amendment, but instead of accepting it, adopted a substitute. The provision which was made the basis of the discussion was that suggested by Foraker prohibiting the granting of rebates, passes, drawbacks, or special rates to passengers on railways and also prohibiting discrimination in the way of accommodations where equal rates are paid.

The discussion took a broad range, covering first the pass question and then the race issue, was raised in connection with the clause relative to discrimination, which was interpreted as referring to separate cars for the races, and it called out very warm protests from Bacon, Money, Culberson and other Southern senators.

Washington, May 7.—Notwithstanding that this was the speaker's seventieth birthday, the house, after a splendid demonstration to Mr. Cannon as he ascended to the speaker's table, settled down to one of the biggest days in the history of the present session. The day was notable for the number of bills passed, forty-five in number, covering a large number of subjects. Many of the bills could have been passed by unanimous consent, but with Williams' determination to object to any legislation by unanimous consent, these bills came up under suspension of the rules, this being known as "suspension day."

The following were among the bills passed:

To authorize the Minnesota, Dakota & Pacific Railroad Company to construct a bridge across the Missouri river.

Granting to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company the right of way through the Fort Keogh military reservation, Montana.

To punish the cutting, chipping or boxing of trees on the public domain.

To amend an act concerning leases in the Yellowstone National Park.

To provide for the subdivision and sale of certain land in the state of Washington.

For the relief of certain entrymen and settlers within the limits of the Northern Pacific Railway land grant.

To amend the act to provide a government for the territory of Hawaii.

Navy Men Did Well.

Washington, May 8.—Acting Secretary of the Navy Newberry has laid before the president a report of cases of gallantry and signally efficient performance of duty by officers and men of the navy in connection with the San Francisco disaster. The data were collected by direction of the president, and the acting secretary's report embodies extracts from letters and telegrams from Rear-Admiral Goodrich, commander-in-chief of the Pacific squadron; Rear-Admiral R. H. McCalla, and Lieutenant-Commander Henry C. Haines, of the marine corps.

Cuba Wants Better Terms.

Havana, May 8.—A sub-committee of the joint committee of all the commercial and industrial associations of Cuba has submitted to the full committee a report on the general basis for the negotiations for a new commercial treaty with the United States. It is understood the full committee approves of the report. It is said the report asks for more favorable treatment for sugar, for which Cuba would be willing to give more favorable treatment to American cottons and food products.

PARLIAMENT MEETS.

Elect or Russian People Assemble in Open Session.

St. Petersburg, May 11.—Without a single hitch and with only a minor incident to mar the memorable day, the Russian parliament was inaugurated yesterday. The emperor's message in reality was less a throne speech than a greeting, and required only three minutes for its delivery. Emperor Nicholas read slowly. The admirable and even cordial tone of the sovereign in renewing his pledges and asking the cooperation of parliament for the regeneration of the country was only negatively satisfactory.

Couriers and spectators other than members of the national parliament led the cheering, but the members were ominously silent. What rankled most was the failure of the emperor to mention amnesty, and later, when the members assembled in the Tauride palace, away from the spell of the throne room, many of them were with difficulty restrained from precipitating matters by offering resolutions on the subject. The Constitutional Democratic leaders, however, who dominated everything, were anxious not to weaken the reply which the lower house will prepare to the speech from the throne, in which issues with the crown will be joined, and succeeded in staving off premature action.

By the irony of fate, Ivan Petrunkevich, whose first mention of the word constitution 12 years ago was dismissed by Emperor Nicholas II as "a foolish dream," today stood in the front rank of the members of the representative chamber, while Emperor Nicholas put his official seal upon the Russian parliament.

GIVES MANY BRIBES

Inner Workings of Standard Oil Made Public by Former Employee.

Chicago, May 11.—Corruption of railroad employees and agents of independent oil companies, dishonest methods of procuring land leases, the giving of short measure, the selling of three different kinds of oil out of the same tank and misrepresentations as to the quality of oil sold, were charged against the Standard Oil company at today's hearing before the Interstate Commerce commission. Incidentally, it was charged that the Frisco road gives a rate of 2 cents a hundred pounds to the Standard Oil company when it charges competitors of that corporation 10 times as much for the same haul.

The inquiry was held under an order of congress and this session held here today was along the same lines as that held some time ago in Kansas City. The principal witnesses today were E. M. Wilhoit, of Springfield, Mo., formerly for ten years agent of the Standard Oil company at Topeka, but now an independent operator; H. C. Deran, of Fremont, O.; E. P. Ripley, president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe road, and M. Mason, a former agent of the Standard Oil in Illinois.

PUT-OVER HEAD OF HART.

China Appoints New Officials to Manage Customs Service.

Pekin, May 11.—An imperial edict which may radically affect the status of Sir Robert Hart, director general of the Chinese customs and the customs establishment, was published today, as follows:

"Tieh Liang, president of the board of revenue, is hereby appointed superintendent of customs affairs. Tong Shao, junior vice president of the Foreign board, is appointed associate minister of Customs affairs. All Chinese and foreigners employed in the various customs are placed under their control."

Both these offices are new creations in the customs service. Hitherto the customs have been nominally under the direction of the Foreign board, but practically Sir Robert Hart has exercised absolute control.

The diplomats here are unwilling to comment on the edict until its intentions and full force are apparent. If it means a step toward active Chinese management of the customs, the foreign government are expected to resist it.

London Companies' Instructions.

London, May 11.—At a meeting today of managers of insurance companies here involved in the San Francisco disaster, it was voted to telegraph the following instructions to the companies' representatives at San Francisco: "We desire a committee to act with American companies in adjusting losses in strict conformity with each company's separate policy conditions, acting on legal and expert advice, referring home disputed cases which involve important principles and doubtful to legal ability."

Give \$900,000 to California.

Washington, May 11.—The house committee on public lands today authorized a favorable report on a bill which will result in placing about \$900,000 in the state treasury of California from the Federal treasury, if it becomes a law. The bill grants the state five per cent of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands of the state from the beginning of the state government, and in that respect puts California on the same basis as other states.

Will Make Jefferson Statue.

Washington, May 11.—Secretary Root announced today that Augustus St. Gaudens had been secured as sculptor for the proposed Thomas Jefferson monument to be erected in Washington.

BRIBERY SYSTEM OF STANDARD OIL

Kansas City Manager May Be Tried for Perjury.

Witness Will Tell Details of Bribery of Railroad Men, Who Were on Standard's Secret Payroll—Method by Which Independents Were Crushed.

Chicago, May 10.—The government has a rod in pickle for the Standard Oil Company, when the investigation into rebates and other methods is taken up here tomorrow by the interstate commerce commission. It was learned tonight that a witness had been secured who is in a position to tell, giving all necessary data, dates, amounts, etc., of how the Standard Oil Company engaged in wholesale bribery of railroad employees in order to crush out the independents. This man was employed by Manager Mayer, of Kansas City, who has charge of the tremendous distributing stations in Kansas and Missouri.

It is said he was entrusted with the work of buying up information from railroad employees, who told of orders received by independents, of their plans for shipments in advance, and various other details, so that the Standard Company was in a position at any moment to take such steps as were necessary to crush or hopelessly cripple its small adversary.

The name of this highly important witness is closely guarded, but it is said his testimony will create a tremendous sensation and bring before the federal grand jury a large number of western railroad men who have been in the secret employ of the Standard.

Mr. Mayer, it is also intimated, is open to prosecution for perjury, as he swore before the interstate commerce commission, when he sat at Kansas City, that he had never given any of his agents money to be used in bribing railroad or other men. The testimony will show, it is said, that the railroad spies were on the secret Standard Oil payroll at from \$10 to \$30 a month, depending upon how much information they could give.

SOLD SECRETS TO AMERICA.

Two Germans Sentenced for Treason to Empire.

Leipzig, Germany, May 10.—Before the imperial supreme court here today Otto Seiftenleben, an ex-clerk in one of the government departments in Berlin, and Konrad, a mechanic, were found guilty of treason in selling to representatives of the American legation at Brussels a submarine mine with an anchoring apparatus and drawings belonging to them.

The prisoners were also charged with selling similar drawings to Russia, and with having constructed a mine in Brussels, which was bought from them through a French intermediary.

Seiftenleben was sentenced to four years and Konrad to three years at penal servitude and five years' loss of civil rights and to police supervision. Aucke, a commercial traveler, was acquitted.

GREAT DAMAGE TO STEAMERS.

Columbia Needs \$100,000 of Repairs, Puebla \$15,000.

San Francisco, May 10.—Considerable damage was done by the earthquake to vessels on the ways or in course of construction at the Union Iron Works.

Besides the freighters Mexican and Columbia, being built for the Hawaiian-American Steamship Company, which were damaged about \$15,000 each, the Columbia, which has been long on the Portland run, and the City of Puebla, a Seattle boat, were damaged.

The damage to the Columbia will be \$100,000. The boat is now submerged, having sunk with the dock on which it rested. The City of Puebla was less seriously damaged; \$15,000 will cover her losses.

Works for Philippines.

Washington, May 10.—Secretary Taft by a personal canvass of the senate today endeavored to revive sentiment in favor of Philippine tariff legislation at the present session of congress. He made arguments in favor of a reduction of schedules on sugar, tobacco and rice to 50 per cent of the Dingley rates. The measure left sleeping in the senate Philippine committee provided for a reduction on these articles to 25 per cent of existing schedules. He was willing to go further and to eliminate the proposition for eventual free trade with the Philippines.

Build Battleship at Navy Yard.

Washington, May 10.—The construction bureau of the navy is willing to undertake to build the leviathan 20,000-ton battleship provided for, and on the basis of the experience acquired in the construction of the battleship Connecticut at the New York navy yard, the constructors feel sure they can execute this task with reasonable dispatch at a minimum of cost. A careful estimate limits the time allowed for construction to forty-eight months and the cost to \$10,000,000.

Discredited in Washington.

Washington, May 10.—At the war department it was stated today that nothing was known of the reported surreptitious purchase at Brussels of plans for a submarine mine. Attention was also called to the fact that there is no military attaché to the American legation at Brussels.

SYMPATHY AND HOPE FOR SAN FRANCISCO.



—Chicago Tribune.

THE SOUTH POLAR TIMES.

The great depression felt by some polar explorers when shut in by ice and cold, writes Lieutenant Armitage in "Two Years in the Antarctic," was not felt by the men on board the Discovery, sent to examine the south polar lands. Every possible effort was made to keep the men cheerful and in good physical condition. Walks over the ice were taken as a matter of duty, and that efforts for entertainment were made is evidenced by the following account of their diversions:

At a meeting held in the ward room it was decided to bring out a monthly paper, something like a London magazine. Each of us wrote on a piece of paper what we thought the best title. The South Polar Times was the one chosen. It was to be published on the first of each month; and every member of the ship's company was invited to contribute toward making it the most amusing, instructive, up-to-date journal, with the largest circulation within the antarctic circle. Notwithstanding this superexcellence, it was to be issued free to all the population of our small colony, the cost of production being more than covered by the grateful feelings of the recipients, to say nothing of the advertisers. A rival magazine, named the Blizzard, which was brought out to afford a voice for poetical effusions rejected by the South Polar Times, did not survive the first number.

On most days during the first month of the winter the clicking of the typewriter could be heard in Shackleton's cabin as he busily "set up" the paper; and frequently a shy and conspicuous-looking blue jacket would enter the editor's sanctum to ask his advice. A box was placed outside the office for the receipt of contributions, but would-be authors much preferred a personal audience; so our editor, in self-defense, removed his office fittings to a storeroom in the bowels of the ship.

Two of the members of our mess, Shackleton and Bernacchi, were very fond of poetry, and of course each had his favorite author. Many were the arguments raised as to the respective merits of Browning and Tennyson, so it was decided that Shackleton should read extracts from Browning, and Bernacchi from Tennyson, while the remainder of us listened and carefully judged between the two, voting after each pair of extracts had been read. Their declaimed in their best style, endeavoring to point out the beauty of the passages chosen by them.

Ferrari caused much amusement, after an extract from "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" had been read, by saying, "Well, I'm not much on poetry, but I go on rats."

Browning won by a single vote.

CODFISH IS NOW A LUXURY.

Price in France Higher than Ever Before Known.

The fact that the American codfishers have been cut off from securing bait in Newfoundland as well as the French causes satisfaction at St. Pierre, not because the former have lost their baiting privileges, but from the belief that American vessel owners will unite with the St. Pierre fleet in securing and preserving bait to their mutual benefit, says the New York Herald. Schools of herring visit St. Pierre and should be secured when opportunity offers. From one school last fall it is estimated that several thousand barrels could have been secured. Caplin, a much esteemed bait for use in July, seldom falls to come to these islands to spawn, and it is thought that with proper regulations the supply will be equal to the demand.

Among all the bank fishermen squid are considered good bait at any season and may be caught in fair quantities about these shores; in the past this is

the one bait supply that has not been lost through lack of taking or preserving. Notwithstanding French fishermen are seriously handicapped in their efforts to secure bait, a careful inquiry establishes the fact that there is an abundance of salt squid and herring for the first trip.

Vigorous preparations are being made for the coming season, and the indications are that the tonnage sailing from St. Pierre to engage in codfishing will be more than for a number of years, among the vessels being many new ones. With a record of three bad years, this renewed enterprise is commendable.

The price of codfish in France has advanced to a figure never before reached, making it a luxury instead of an article of common consumption. The French firms are offering St. Pierre fishermen \$4.90 per 100 pounds for green fish. In drying the shrinkage is 30 per cent, and with the added cost of 1 1/2 cents per pound as the cost of drying and transportation, with 20 per cent profit to the retailer, we have the total cost to the French consumer of 12 cents per pound. In fact, the retail price at St. Pierre of dry codfish is 10 cents per pound. France would not, however, be a good market for American dried codfish, as the duty is prohibitive, the market being held for French fishermen. On the other hand, St. Pierre cannot enter the United States markets, where a discriminating duty is levied on bounty-fed industrial articles.

The non-competitive French fishermen of St. Pierre therefore argue that the New England fishermen should unite with them in making this place the baiting headquarters for both countries. St. Pierre, although receiving a bounty only on codfish, is starting a movement to establish other fisheries and erect establishments for smoking, pickling and otherwise preserving fish.

Believed by Japs.

The Japanese believe in more mythical creatures than any other people on the globe, civilized or savage. Among these mythical animals are some without any remarkable peculiarities of conformation, but gifted with supernatural attributes, such as a tiger which is said to live until it has become a thousand years old, and then turns as white as a polar bear. The Japanese also believe in a multitude of animals distinguished mainly by their monstrous size or by the multiplication of their members. Among these are serpents eight hundred feet long and large enough to swallow an elephant, foxes with eight legs, monkeys with four ears, and fishes with ten heads attached to one body. Japs also believe in the existence of a crane which, after it has lived for six hundred years, has no need of any sustenance except water.

Perverse Nature.

"Strange thing about Mrs. Dingla. She is the woman who never cared to drink any water."

"Yes."

"She called in a doctor to reduce her extreme stoutness. He told her on no account to drink water."

"Yes."

"And now she's thirsty all the time."

Cause of Suspicion.

"Is there any question about the social position of the Dollartons?"

"There was none until recently," answered Miss Cayenne. "It has been discovered that the society paper Town Whoppers printed some very complimentary paragraphs about them."

Washington Star.

When a widower marries again, the neighbor women recall with many sighs that his poor dead wife just worshiped him.

A horse laugh may be the kind let out by the equine who is drawing a disabled automobile back to town.