

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

CONGRESS RESUMES.

Short Meeting of Fifty-Ninth Session at Work.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The 59th congress began its last session at noon yesterday. It took the senate 15 minutes to arrange its preliminaries and the house an hour. The senate received from President Roosevelt a long list of appointments for its confirmation, and in executive session of 19 minutes decided, as the nominations had been received before the body had been organized formally, to make no confirmations until the president's annual message had been received and the session fairly started.

Senators Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and Foraker, of Ohio, came forward with resolutions of inquiry regarding the discharge of the negro troops of the Twenty-fifth infantry. One was addressed to the president and the other to the secretary of war. After the ripple of surprise had passed and Vice President Fairbanks had suggested that it was unusual to transact any business until the president's message had been received, the resolutions went over by unanimous consent. Senator Dupont, of Delaware, took the oath of office.

The opening of the two houses was witnessed by an animated throng, which filled the galleries to their capacity. Hundreds went away disappointed in not gaining admission to witness the session of either senate or house.

Not in years have a larger number of members-elect of the lower house of congress presented themselves at the speaker's desk to take the oath of office. Death has been unusually active among the membership during the closing days of the last session and the beginning of the present, and Chaplain Couden feelingly called the attention of the body to the work of the grim reaper during the months since adjournment.

After the appointment of the usual committee to wait upon the president and inform him that the house was organized and ready to receive any communication he might desire to make of interest to the public service, the house adjourned out of respect to the memory of the deceased members. The president's message will be received both in the house and senate today. No bills were introduced in the senate. In the house three were 38 public measures and 350 of a private character.

Work of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The reading of the president's message consumed two hours and 25 minutes in the house today and was followed closely by a large number of members, while the crowded galleries gave close attention. After the customary resolution relating to the printing of the message, the house, at 2:53, adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 4.—President Roosevelt's annual message to congress occupied the attention of the senate for two and one-half hours today, to the exclusion of nearly all other business. The exception to this was the introduction of a resolution on the Japanese situation by Raynor, of Maryland, and the adoption of appropriate resolutions regarding those members of the house of representatives who have died since the last session. As a mark of further respect to their memories, adjournment was taken at 2:54 o'clock.

Wednesday, December 5.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The brief session of the senate today resulted in the introduction of many bills, resolutions, petitions and memorials, and the receipt of a number of communications from the executive department. Senator Foraker's insistence that immediate action be taken on the pending resolutions asking for information regarding the discharge of negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth infantry developed discussion, but resulted in postponing action until tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The house today, awaiting the report of the appropriation bills, began its legislative grind by passing three measures: Incorporating the National German-American alliance; authorizing the secretary of the treasury to duplicate gold certificates in lieu of ones lost or destroyed; and amending the national banking laws, permitting national banking associations to make loans on real estate as security and limiting the amount of such loans.

Worse Treated in Mexico

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 4.—A dispatch to the Express from Eagle Pass, Tex., says: Three hundred Japanese have entered the United States from Mexico through Eagle Pass since November 1. They are leaving Mexico because of ill treatment which they received at the hands of Mexican employers. The Japanese say they were lured into Mexico with promises of good pay and pleasant work on farms. So inviting are the promises that Japanese immigration societies worked to get Japanese for agricultural work.

Utah Coal Land Withdrawn.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 4.—The Utah state land board has received notice from the general land office at Washington of the withdrawal from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws of 184,211 acres of land in Utah. This land had been selected by the Utah land board for transfer to private parties as agricultural land, but it is now withdrawn by the government on the advice of experts, who pronounce it coal land.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The senate today adopted the Penrose resolution asking the president for information regarding the discharge of the negro troops of the Twenty-fifth infantry, and also the Foraker resolution directing the secretary of War to transmit information on the same subject. Senator Beveridge introduced a bill today to amend the meat inspection act by requiring that the cost of inspection shall be paid by the packers. Another amendment requires that the date of inspection and packing or canning shall be placed on each package.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The house by a vote of 110 to 164 today defeated the bill of Littlefield of Maine removing discriminations against American sailing vessels in the coasting trade. The debate raged for four hours and a half and the result of the vote was a surprise to the friends of the measure, who openly charged its defeat to the American Federation of Labor.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7.

Washington, Dec. 7.—By a practically unanimous vote the house today passed the bill limiting the regulation of interstate commerce between the several states in articles manufactured by convict labor or in any prison or reformatory. The bill was introduced by Hunt, of Missouri, a practical stone mason. Under the Wilson bill, which became a law in 1890, convict labor-made goods may enter into active competition with the goods manufactured by "free labor" and under this Federal law a state could not pass a law that would prevent the shipping into the state of prison-made goods of other states.

The sovereignty of the state was the subject of earnest debate in the house today, growing out of the consideration of a bill to establish a game preserve of nearly 700,000 acres in the Olympia forest reserve in the state of Washington. The bill was passed without division.

READY FOR WAR.

Our Army and Navy Prepared if Japan Wants to Fight.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Nothing which has been said in the whole range of comment on the possibility of war between the United States and Japan has surprised certain Washington officials so much as the seeming unanimity of opinion in the country that we are utterly unprepared for a fight with the Orientals. There is a prayerful hope that no war will come, but, if it should come, the strong probabilities are that the pessimists, and they seem to abound in every section of the land, will find that they have looked upon the prospect with blue glasses.

Congressmen have come into Washington from every district and all of them seem burdened with the belief that, if trouble comes with Japan over the California school question—which is a minor matter—or over the enactment of a Japanese exclusion law—which is a major matter—the Philippines will be lost to us, temporarily at least, within a month. The Japanese will not take the Philippines, or, if they do, they will be successful in an exploit that will bring them such honors of war as few people.

FRANTIC APPEAL FOR COAL.

Spokane Dealers Hear From Entire Inland Empire.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 7.—Stimulated by the heavy fall of snow throughout the Big Bend, Palouse, Walla Walla and Coeur d'Alene counties last night, local coal dealers were today flooded with frantic appeals from Lewiston, Colfax, Davenport, Pullman, Wallace and other cities for coal. In response to this demand six wholesale coal dealers, who supply the entire territory affected, issued a signed statement declaring they had coal here in sufficient quantity to supply the entire Inland Empire, but that the O. R. & N. and Northern Pacific railways were refusing or were unable to furnish cars with which to deliver the coal. They criticized the railway for placing them in a false light by advertising reduced rates on fuel and announced their intention of appealing to the Railway commission for an investigation.

MUST APPEAR IN ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Dec. 7.—The clerk of the United States Circuit court today received notification from the United States marshal's office in New York that service had been ordered on John D. Rockefeller and others in the government suit against the Standard Oil company recently filed in St. Louis. In addition to Rockefeller, the following joint defendants with him were served: Henry H. Rogers, William Rockefeller, John D. Archibald, H. M. Flagler and Oliver H. Payne. They will be required to enter an appearance here.

LESSON TO FREE-TRADERS.

London, Dec. 7.—The Daily Mail comments this morning upon the "Tale of American Prosperity" told in Secretary of the Treasury Shaw's report. It says the striking fact about this dazzling prosperity is that it prevails in a country which British free traders, 15 years ago, predicted would be ruined by protection. The Daily Mail regards Mr. Shaw's currency proposals as a bold statement, not feasible except for the \$60,000,000 duties collected.

SHOWS BIG DEFICIT.

Postal Department Runs Behind \$10,516,995.94 in Year.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The annual report of Postmaster General Cortelyou shows receipts for the past year were \$167,932,782.95, while expenditures were \$178,449,778.89. The deficit is \$10,516,995.94.

The postmaster general discusses the deficit but says he is less concerned about that than about the efficiency of the department. He attributes the failure to show a profit to the growing public demand for increased postal facilities. The deficit is not charged to any one branch of the service.

The remarkable efficiency of some departments is commented upon, particularly of the registry service. For half a century all causes of loss, including burglary, theft and fire, have shown a loss of only three one-thousandths of 1 per cent. Mr. Cortelyou recommends that a deputy postmaster general be appointed, who shall relieve the burden borne by the postmaster general and his four assistants. The department has 320,000 persons in its employ and it is recommended that the deputy's position be made permanent and that he shall be greater manager of the postal service. Greater accuracy in statistics is recommended and Mr. Cortelyou asks that provision be made for expert statisticians and accountants. The congestion of mail in New York City is indicated and attention called to the new postoffice building, a site for which has been acquired at the proposed terminal station of the Pennsylvania railroad.

FROM PRESIDENT'S VIEW.

Gives Reasons for Dismissing Former Ambassador Storer.

Washington, Dec. 11.—President Roosevelt tonight made public a long letter addressed to Secretary Root, giving correspondence between the president and ex-Ambassador Bellamy Storer, in which he says that Mr. Storer's refusal to answer his letters and the publication of various private letters justified the ambassador's removal; that Mr. Storer's publication of private correspondence was peculiarly ungentlemanly and that he (the president) had stated with absolute clearness his position, the reason why it was out of the question for him as president to try to get any archbishop made cardinal, though expressing his admiration for Archbishop Ireland as well as leaders of other denominations.

The president's action follows the publication of a "confidential pamphlet" which Mr. Storer last week sent to the president, the cabinet and the senate and foreign relations committee.

PRESIDENT CASTRO ILL.

Chief Executive of Venezuela Removed to Seacoast Town on a Bed.

Fort de France, Martinique, Dec. 11.—Reliable advices here from Venezuela set forth that President Castro was moved down to the little seacoast village of Macuto, near La Guayra, last week. The president is described as being very ill. He made the trip from Caracas in a bed. When he arrived at Macuto, he appeared to be absolutely unconscious. It is generally believed that he has no chance of recovery.

Violently worded posters have been circulated in Caracas declaring that no one is today deceived regarding the gravity of President Castro's illness, and insisting that the exercise of executive power be assured through a vice president, which is provided for in the constitution. For a long time past the poster continued, only routine government matters have been attended to, and important questions are being held in abeyance.

General Parades, an ex-revolutionist, now in exile, is organizing a serious insurrectionary movement, and declares that he will soon take the field. He claims to have 15,000 rifles at his disposition.

Ten Days' Time to Refund.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 11.—State Commissioner of Insurance R. E. Folk today sent telegrams to the Mutual Life and New York Life Insurance companies giving them ten days in which to refund certain amounts of policy holders' money. The Mutual, he charges, has used several thousand dollars as compensation and expenses for agents to electioneer for the administration ticket. The New York Life officials are given ten days in which to cover its treasury money spent for printing and circulating 800 administration ballots.

Sale of Mexican Mine.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 11.—News was received today of the consummation of the sale of the two most famous gold and silver mining properties in the state of Sonora. Las Chichas, a famous producer, has been sold to a New York and Paris syndicate for 6,000,000 pesos (\$3,000,000 gold). The Badami-ora mines, in the same district, one of the most famous of the Antiguas group, has been sold to D. E. O. Pease, of Chicago, and his associates.

Sampans Sunk in Squall.

Tokio, Dec. 11.—A number of sampans (small harbor boats) belonging to the Japanese cruiser Chitose were sunk in a squall here today while she was returning from a trip. A number of the boats were overturned and 60 men were drowned.

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

BUSINESS PARALYZED.

Car Shortage Causing Heavy Losses to Shippers.

McMinnville.—To say nothing of the car shortage for the immense lumber trade in this county, shippers are at least 300 cars short. A McMinnville hoppyner said that the growers in this part of the county are already losers by \$20,000 on account of not being able to get cars when they had a chance to sell, and little relief is in sight.

Wool shipments have been delayed, and the farmers put to great inconvenience and loss.

The potato crop is waiting shipment with no cars. A great part of it is on the sidetracks and a freeze would result in great loss. A prominent shipper said:

"The company does not build enough cars to keep up with the wonderful increase of business, and what they have are poorly handled. For instance, cars come in here every day from the East, are unloaded here and are sent empty to Portland, after staying here for two or three days. They could just as well be loaded here for Portland. The car shortage is the greatest handicap in business this section of country has ever suffered from."

Lane Could Use 3,000 Cars.

Engene.—The Willamette valley car shortage is seriously affecting the business of Lane county lumber concerns. The Booth-Kelly company's big mill at Wendling has closed down on that account, forcing between 250 and 400 men into idleness. The company's Springfield mill is running only in the day time, the night shift having been laid off several months ago, forcing 100 men to seek employment elsewhere. The company at the present time is short 1,700 cars, and it is estimated that the total shortage in the county is 3,000 cars. The Mohawk Lumber company's mill has closed down.

Brownville Feels Gloomy.

Brownville.—Inability to obtain cars for transportation of lumber is paralyzing the business of the lumbermen of this section. The shortage has existed for seven weeks, during which period not a single car has been loaded at this station, the railroad company absolutely refusing to supply cars at all. That no relief is in sight is potent from the fact that a conference, held in Portland a few days ago, between Mayor W. P. Elmore, of this city, and J. P. O'Brien, of the Southern Pacific, in reference to the car shortage, failed utterly, no encouragement whatever being offered.

Linn Needs 50 for Grain.

Albany.—There is great suffering from the car shortage in towns on the branch lines in this part of the state. Being a railroad junction and a distributing point, Albany is more favored than any other valley city, but conditions even here are very bad. Shippers can get cars for Portland, but absolutely nothing for the south. The greatest need is for cars for grain and farm produce on branch lines. Shippers are unable to fill orders, and the demand for cars is growing greater every day. At least 50 cars are needed now for grain alone.

Inconvenience at Grants Pass.

Grants Pass.—The Southern Pacific will not furnish cars for California points, except for fruit. The California Pine Box & Lumber company is also handicapped by not being able to get lumber shipped from outside points, but the company is running its usual force, and is putting in full time. The Fruit Growers' union has been able to get all the cars needed to ship apples both to California and the East. Merchants have been inconvenienced.

Woodburn Wants 58.

Woodburn.—If relief does not come soon there will be considerable loss from the car shortage here, if a freeze comes and the contents of warehouses are affected. Among the cars needed are 16 for potatoes, 20 for hay and 22 for hops. Of these 58 cars, some were ordered before November 1. Farmers are anxious to sell, but the commission houses cannot buy so long as they cannot get cars.

Clackamas Wants Better Roads.

Oregon City.—Commendable interest in bringing about an improved condition in many of the highways of the county is being exhibited by the taxpayers residing in several of the important road districts. Several meetings have been held in different sections of the county, when a special tax has been ordered levied, the proceeds from which will be utilized, together with what may be appropriated by the county, in placing in substantial repair the thoroughfares in such districts. At a meeting of the taxpayers of the Highland road district a special tax of 6 mills was ordered levied for this purpose.

Irrigation at Freewater.

Freewater.—Winter irrigation of the Hudson Bay district, 10 miles below this city, is now in full progress, irrigation from the big Burlingame ditch and its laterals covering an area of about 20,000 acres of fruit and rich alfalfa lands. At this season of the year all the waters of the Walla Walla and the Tam-a-lum rivers below the Peacock and Eagle mills in this city are available for irrigation, which has proved to be a successful plan in this particular district.

EVERY COUNTY PAID IN FULL.

Oregon is Out of Debt, and Will Be Until Early Next Year.

Salem.—For the first time in the history of the state every county has paid its state taxes in full. In the last three or four years the payments have been prompt and only two or three counties were delinquent and only for comparatively small sums. Now, however, that the last half of the state tax from the several counties is delinquent, a balance of accounts has been struck and not a dollar is found to be due the state. Until a few days ago one county had not paid, but the county treasurer remitted before delinquency started the accumulation of interest.

Though the finances of the state are in excellent condition and the state has not a dollar of debt, it is apparent that the treasury will be depleted early in 1907, and that for some time warrants must be indorsed for want of funds and the state must pay interest thereon. No more state taxes will be due until April.

Corn in Benton County.

Corvallis.—On old wheat land in this county, John Whitaker, living 12 miles south of Corvallis, grew this season 1,000 bushels of corn on 14 acres of ground. The yield is more than 70 bushels per acre, which is understood to be a satisfactory yield in the corn belt of the Middle West. The soil is sandy loam, but has been cropped for many years to wheat. The success Mr. Whitaker has had this and other years will lead him to plant a larger acreage of corn next season.

Will Colonize Big Tract.

Oregon City.—Judge T. F. Ryan has made the sale for H. Grim, of Texas, of 800 acres of land, four miles north-east of Molalla, to W. H. Bair, of Canby. This farm will be subdivided into small tracts and disposed of through a plan of colonization. Only 80 acres of the large tract are under cultivation, but the rest can easily be cleared by the individual purchasers of the tracts. The land is rich and productive and is one of the most fertile sections in the county.

Can Factory for Astoria.

Astoria.—Articles of incorporation of the Kendall Can company have been filed in the county clerk's office. The incorporators are George W. Sanborn, F. P. Kendall and G. C. Fulton, and the capital stock is \$100,000, divided into 1,000 shares of \$100 each. The company is making arrangements for the erection of a plant that will be equipped with the most modern machinery for the manufacture of all classes of cans.

Favor Phonetic Readers.

Pendleton.—The sixth annual convention of the eastern division of the State Teachers' association, adopted a resolution requesting the State Textbook commission to adopt some series of readers based on a system of phonetics.

Cold Weather in John Day.

Canyon City.—John Day valley residents have experienced a sharp taste of winter, snow falling in the mountains until some of the roads were almost impassible. No stock was lost, and there is no fuel famine here.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Fruits—Apples, common to choice, 50c-75c per box; choice to fancy, \$1.00-2.50; grapes, \$1.65-2.25 per crate; pears, \$1.00-1.50; cranberries, \$1.20-1.30 per barrel; persimmons, \$1.50 per box. Vegetables—Cabbage, 14c-15c; cauliflower, \$1.20 per dozen; celery, 75c-90c per dozen; lettuce, head, 30c per dozen; onions, 10c-12c per dozen; bell peppers, 8c; pumpkins, 13c per pound; spinach, 4c-6c per pound; squash, 16c-17c; turnips, 90c-1.00 per sack; carrots, 90c-1.00 per sack; beets, \$1.25-1.50 per sack; horseradish, 9c-10c per pound; sweet potatoes, 2 1/2c-3c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 75c-81c per cwt. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.6-1.10; common, 70c-90c. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2-32 1/2c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 35c-37 1/2c per dozen. Poultry—Average old hens, 12c-13c per pound; mixed chickens, 12c-12 1/2c; spring, 12 1/2-13 1/2c; old roosters, 8c-10c; dressed chickens, 14c-15c; turkeys, live, 17c-17 1/2c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 21c-22 1/2c; geese, live, 10c; ducks, 15c-16c.

Wheat—Club, 63c-64c; bluestem, 67c-68c; valley, 66c-67c; red, 61c-62c. Oats—No. 1 white, \$25-25.50; gray, \$24.50-25 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$21-21.50 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$22.50-24. Rye—\$1.40-1.45 per cwt. Corn—Whole, \$26; cracked, \$27 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11-12 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14-16; clover, \$7-8; cheat, \$7.50-8.50; grain hay, \$7.50-8.50; alfalfa, \$11.50; vetch hay, \$7-7.50.

Veal—Dressed, 5 1/2-6c per pound. Beef—Dressed bulls, 16-2c per pound; cows, 4c-5c; country steers, 5c-5 1/2c. Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8c-9c per pound; ordinary, 6c-7c.

Pork—Dressed, 6c-8c per pound. Hops—11-14c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13c-18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20c-21c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 25c-28c.

PROBE HILL ROADS.

"Empire Builder" is Next Candidate for Commission Grade.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An investigation of the operations and management of the railroads controlled by James J. Hill and associates, including the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is in contemplation by the Interstate Commerce commission. After certain preliminaries have been arranged and counsel for the commission selected, formal announcement of the proposed inquiry will be made.

As in the case of the proposed investigation of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads of the Harriman system, the inquiry is not the outgrowth of any specific complaints of violations of the interstate commerce law, but it is to be undertaken by virtue of the general inquisitorial powers conferred upon the commission by congress.

The inquiry will be broad and comprehensive, with a view to ascertaining the exact condition of affairs regarding the railroad's compliance with the interstate commerce act. A member of the commission, in speaking of the proposed inquiry, said:

"Although there has been outward compliance with the decree of the Supreme court in dissolving the Northern Securities company, yet there has been a difference in the rates given upon the united system."

WOULD WELCOME CITIZENSHIP.

Viscount Aoki Says Japanese Are Eager for Naturalization.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Favorable action by congress on the recommendation of the president in his last annual message that an act be passed specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese who come to the United States intending to become American citizens, will go far toward securing a continuance of the traditional friendly relations between this country and Japan, is the opinion of Viscount Aoki, the Japanese ambassador.

"Of course," said Viscount Aoki, today, "no nation likes to see its subjects leave to take up a permanent abode in a foreign land and lose all relation with the fatherland, but in many cases it cannot be helped."

The ambassador expressed the belief that there were not so many Japanese in this country to take advantage of naturalization if it were granted, but he thought that such an opportunity should be afforded them along with the citizens of other countries. He said he did not think it probable that those Japanese who were emigrating in large number to Hawaii and the Pacific coast would avail themselves of naturalization, because of the fact that they represented the poorer classes, and most of them ultimately returned to Japan. Viscount Aoki said he had every confidence in the outcome of the test case which will be brought in the California courts.

FIX LUMBER PRICE.

Senate May Investigate Manufacturers Who Control Industry.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An investigation of the lumber combine, as proposed in the resolution introduced by Senator Kittredge, of South Dakota, will be productive of more good to the people, in the opinion of some Western senators, than any inquiry instituted in recent years. Mr. Kittredge has collected considerable material, and when it is presented to the senate in connection with details Senator LaFollette and other Western senators will bring out a strong majority is expected in favor of the resolution.

In many respects the "gentlemen's agreement" which controls the price of lumber is like that which was alleged in the beef packing industry. There are several associations, such as the Hemlock association, the Pine association and the Hardwood association, whose representatives meet once a month, discuss the conditions and fix prices.

There are no records and no documents that would incriminate, but through an agreement of "gentlemen" the output is regulated and prices fixed.

East River Tunnel Bored Joined.

New York, Dec. 10.—Manhattan and Brooklyn boroughs were connected under the East river today by the piercing of the last section which separated the ends of the north tube of the tunnel of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit extension. The East river tunnel extends from the Battery to Jorhann street, Brooklyn. It will form part of the Subway Rapid Transit system from Kings Bridge to Brooklyn. Electric cars of the Long Island railroad will also run through the tunnel. At the point of connection the tunnel is 75 feet under water.

No More Postal Franks.

New York, Dec. 10.—Charles H. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegraph & Cable company, stated today that the board of directors of that company had passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That owing to changed conditions, it has been found necessary to stop all free transmission of messages and this company will absolutely discontinue its free list on and after January 1, 1907." There are many franks outstanding.

Wealth From Montana Mines.

Butte, Dec. 10.—Montana produced in the calendar year of 1905, copper, silver, gold and lead to the value of \$70,677,583. These values came from 5,000,000 tons of ore, and the aggregate production was greater by \$10,088,736 than the value of the output of 1904, which was approximately \$10,000,000 than the year before.