

# PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Tuesday, December 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Representatives Hamer, Mondell and Martin today held a conference and agreed to unite in pressing for consideration the bill relieving homesteaders in the northwest from the necessity of residing on their lands through the winter. Reports indicate that the weather is unusually severe and many requests for this relief are being received. It is asserted that new settlers are finding it impossible to remain on their lands.

The senate today confirmed the nomination of Robert Bacon of New York to be ambassador to France.

President Taft sent to the senate the nominations of General George Stone of California to be naval officer of customs at San Francisco, and Howard C. Shober of South Dakota to be auditor for the interior department in this city.

The Mann "white slave traffic" bill was favorably reported to the house today by Chairman Mann of that committee. The report accompanying the presentation of the measure distinctly disclaims any purpose to usurp in any way the police powers of the states.

Recommendations for changes in the present law regulating transportation companies are contained in the twenty-third annual report of the interstate commerce commission transmitted today to congress.

The report, however, is notable rather for recommendations it does not contain.

Five of the suggestions made by the special committee selected by President Taft to draft changes in the existing interstate commerce act are offered in the report.

Congress adjourned early this afternoon to Thursday, January 4.

Monday, December 20.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Both senate and house concluded their labors by 2 o'clock today. Tomorrow a holiday adjournment for two weeks will be taken.

Aside from the confirmation of the nomination of Horace H. Lurton, of Tennessee, to be an associate justice of the supreme court, the principal feature of the senate proceedings was a speech laden with optimism and good cheer for the Christmas season by Senator Dewey. The address of the New York senator was called forth by what he characterized as the pessimistic predictions in Senator La Follette's magazine and in many newspapers as to the effect of the tariff upon prices and as to the waste of natural resources.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"We will report a general river and harbor bill about February 1," said Chairman Alexander, of the house committee on rivers and harbors, today. Mr. Alexander said his bill would carry much more than \$50,000,000.

Friday, December 17.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Denunciation of officials of the executive departments of the government who criticize without just cause was made in a speech by Representative Mann of Illinois, and also another speech of similar tenor by Representative Fitzgerald of New York, who said "a certain distinguished official" was responsible, therefore, because of the bad example he had set for his subordinates. This culminated an otherwise dull session of the house today.

It was understood generally that Mr. Fitzgerald had ex-President Roosevelt in mind.

The District of Columbia appropriation bill was read, but was not put upon its passage, and will be taken up Monday again. Some saving was effected by reducing appropriations for increases in salaries for district officers by eliminating altogether paragraphs making provisions for new offices.

Representative Mason, a Kansas, again assumed the role of the "watch dog of the treasury" and made points of order against several sections of the bill, and not wholly without success.

Rather unexpectedly the house agreed to insert in the bill an amendment appropriating \$17,000 for playgrounds for children of the district.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Senatorial friends of Secretary Ballinger are preparing to introduce and pass a resolution authorizing sweeping congressional investigation into conduct of the interior department, general land office and forest service. Secretary Ballinger is in hearty accord with this purpose and said today he would welcome such an investigation in his department, for he is satisfied that a fair and impartial investigation will bring forth satisfactory answer to every accusation that has been made against him and against other officials of his department.

Army engineers, in a report sent to congress today, recommend an appropriation of \$9,000 for dredging a channel 40 feet wide and two and a half feet deep in the Cowlitz river, from Castle Rock to Toledo, and the annual appropriation of \$2,000 to maintain the channel.

Thursday, December 16.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Performing the functions of a municipal legislative body the house today devoted nearly five hours to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. The measure carries \$10,156,473 for the expenses of the district for 1911.

Representative McCredie today introduced bills authorizing the erection of public buildings at Vancouver, Hoquiam and Aberdeen, Wash., to cost \$150,000.

Agreement Arrived at on Rate Cases.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A final agreement was reached today between counsel for both sides in the lumber rate cases. Argument will be heard either here or at Chicago. The roads attach importance to the cases, judging from the attention they give. It is evident the real meaning of the cases is more an attack on the powers of the commission than the question of rates, although ostensibly rates constitute the chief issue.

## ROADS BESET BY TROUBLE.

### Worst Winter in Years Causes Many Wrecks and Delays.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Railroads in the West, northwest, and in the central states are experiencing the greatest difficulty of years in operating their trains. Conditions which exist now have not been equalled during any winter for the past decade.

The troubles of the operating men seem prevalent everywhere. In Chicago passenger trains from all directions arrive from five hours to one-half day late, and in a few instances trains became so late they were abandoned before reaching the terminal.

To make matters worse, the difficult operating conditions which have arisen have been accompanied by a long series of wrecks on the various railroads, which have resulted in a serious apprehension everywhere. For most of the wrecks the sudden cold snap is being held responsible by the railroad men, as the marked drop in temperature causes the rails to become brittle.

Within the territory limits of Chicago the operation of trains is made exceedingly difficult by reason of the cold and the smoke. Early in the morning suburban trains are compelled to crawl into the stations, the engine crews unable to see the signals at times on account of the low-hanging smoke.

Throughout the west freight traffic is more or less paralyzed. In an effort to get passenger trains over the road the operating men have been compelled to sidetrack freight everywhere for a long period. The result is that all the sidings are full of delayed freight and the terminal yards are congested to an equal degree.

In many sections the sudden extreme cold has been followed by a heavy fall of snow, which has drifted and thus blocked traffic in many places for hours. In Chicago the operating men on the various roads have been working day and night in the hope of clearing up the lines and getting traffic moving normally.

Passenger trains cannot get out of Chicago on time, because of the non-arrival of Pullman equipment, which is in use on delayed trains.

Railroad men say one of the greatest causes of delay is the difficulty of steaming engines during severe cold. Another cause is the difficulty of operating coal chutes, trains often being delayed from 20 minutes to one-half hour in securing coal or water.

## BIG WEDDING CAKE FOR KING.

### Monarch of Tonga, in New Zealand, Orders 500-Pounder.

Cape Town, Dec. 20.—By command of King George of Tonga, a baker of Auckland, New Zealand, has designed and built a cake for the coming nuptials of the king and queen. In its splendor and imposing proportions, the cake, to quote the local press, "has never had an equal in the annals of Australasian confectionery."

It weighs 500 pounds and stands eight feet high. Decorating various panels are the Tongan coat of arms, the Tongan royal crown and the initials of the king and his bride.

Curiously enough, the lady's initials are concealed from the gaze of the crowd who admire the cake in the baker's shop window. The identity of the future queen is in fact a mystery, and one of the conditions imposed on the baker was to complete the secrecy regarding her initials. It is understood that there has been some competition among the ladies of the Tongan court for the kingly bridegroom, and that in order to defer the disappointment of the unsuccessful ones till the last possible moment his majesty will not reveal the name of the bride until the day of the ceremony.

## CANNOT SHUT OUT THE STORK.

### Chicago Landlords Lose Test Case in Court.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Hard-hearted Illinois landlords and flat agents must not shoo the stork away from their premises. The law had its first test today, and was upheld. This bodes ill for landlords who refuse apartments to parents, actual or prospective.

Rolls R. Longenecker, father of a boy of 5 and a girl of 3, brought suit against W. L. Bechtel, an attorney, and Robert F. Schenk, as agent, for refusing to renew his lease. They made it clear that the reason was that he had children. Longenecker, who is a lawyer and son of the famous lawyer and judge, immediately began a test of the law passed last winter covering such cases, and Municipal Judge Himes decided that children and their parents, under the constitution, are entitled to life and reasonable liberty.

## Bank Guaranty Attacked.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 20.—Restraining orders against State Bank Commissioner Young were asked in a suit argued in the district court today. The United States Fidelity & Guaranty company and the Southern Surety company, sureties for the state school land commission in the protection of funds deposited with the Columbia Bank & Trust company, asked the court to prevent the bank commissioner from making the state guaranty fund and state banks preferred creditors in closing up the bank's affairs. Judge Clark reserved decision.

## Road Boosts Dry Farms.

Albuquerque, N. M., Dec. 20.—It is announced today by the immigration department of the Santa Fe railroad that \$25,000 or more will be spent by the railroad to demonstrate the final practicability of dry farming in the wastes of New Mexico. Hard-working homesteaders in all parts of the territory will be supplied with the necessary funds and implements. Professor J. D. Tinsley, of the New Mexico agricultural college, has resigned in order to take charge of the work.

## Flax Reaches Record Price.

Minneapolis, Dec. 20.—Flax went to \$2 a bushel on the grain market here today, a record price. According to the government's estimate, Minnesota and the Dakotas raised 25,000,000 bushels of this grain this year.

# The Redemption of David Corson

By CHARLES FREDERIC GOSS

Copyright, 1906, by The Bowen-Merrill Company. All Rights Reserved

## CHAPTER XI.—(Continued.)

It occurred to him that if he left the body where it was and it should be eventually discovered, it would afford the gravest suspicion of foul play; but that if he dragged it back again to the road and laid it with its face in the dust, against the rock with which the deed was done, it might pass for an accident.

Once more that hideous smile of cunning lit up the face which in these few moments had undergone a mysterious deterioration. He hastily removed the heap of rubbish, shuddered as he saw the loathsome thing once more exposed to view, but seized it, dragged it back, and placed it with consummate art in the position which his criminal presence had suggested.

As it lay there in the road nothing could have seemed more natural than that it had fallen from the horse; he felt another momentary relief from terror, in which he cunningly conceived a still more sagacious plan, on no longer Romeo. They were the best of friends; it was easy to catch him. He did so, removed the saddle, broke the girth and placed it near the prostrate figure of the quack. Nothing could have more perfectly resembled an accident. An adept in crime could not have performed this task with finer skill, and he was free now to turn to the rest of the work that he must do to conceal this ghastly deed.

Approaching the buggy, he found to his immense relief that Pepeeta was still unconscious. With swift and silent movements he freed the mare, led her out into the road and drove hurriedly away.

As he emerged from the wood they came to another brook, so similar to the one by the side of which the struggle had occurred, that he conceived the idea of stopping by its side and awakening Pepeeta from her stupor there.

"She will not notice the difference," he said to himself; "and if she did not witness the fatal blow I can persuade her that I overpowered the doctor and forced him to return while she was in her swoon."

Stopping the horse, he lifted her inanimate form from the carriage, bore it to the side of the brook, laid it gently upon the bank and dashed a handful of the cold water into her white face. She gasped, opened her eyes, and, sitting up, looked about her with an expression of terror.

"Where am I?" she asked. "Do you not remember? You are here in the wood where the doctor overtook us," he replied.

"And where is he?" "He has returned."

"But I saw you clench with each other, and that was awful! What happened then? I must have fainted. Do you mean that he has gone back without me? How did you persuade him to do that?"

"I persuaded him with my fists. You should have seen me, Pepeeta!" "Did he acknowledge that he had deceived me?"

"He did indeed. Yes, he has gone never to return. He made his confession and relinquished his claim. And so we have nothing to do but forget him and be happy. Are you feeling better now?"

"Yes, I am better; but I am not well; I cannot shake it off. It seems too dreadful to have been real. And yet how much better it is than if one of you had been killed! Oh! I wish I could stop seeing it. Yet you go! Let us leave this gloomy wood. Let us get out into the sunshine. See! It is getting dark. We must not stay here any longer."

"Yes, let us go," he said, rising, lifting her gently from the ground and leading her back to the buggy. In which they took their seats and drove rapidly forward.

Pepeeta's thought were full of gladness; and David's full of agony—they rushed tumultuously back and forth through his mind like contrary winds through a forest.

"Was it not enough that I should be an Adam, and fall? Must I also become a Cain and go forth with the brand of a murderer on my forehead?" he kept saying to himself.

## CHAPTER XII.

The morning after the fight David and Pepeeta hurried on to Louisville, and from there took a steamer to New Orleans. Pepeeta was radiant with joy as they embarked. "How happy I am!" she cried. "It seems as if I had left my old life and the old world behind me!"

"And I am happy to see you glad," answered the wretched youth, whose heart lay in his bosom like lead and whose conscience was writhing with a torture of whose like he had never even dreamed. They embarked unknown and unobserved, but as soon as the first confusion had passed, their singular beauty and unusual appearance made them the cynosure of every eye.

"Who is that splendid fellow?" women asked each other, as David passed with Pepeeta on his arm, while under their breaths men declared that his companion was the loveliest woman who had ever set foot on a Mississippi steamer.

David was in need of excitement. The thought of his crime was constantly agitating his heart, the prostrate form of the doctor with the bloody wound on his forehead was never absent from his mind, and through all the ceaseless rumble around him he could hear the dull thud of the stone upon the hard skull. The efforts which he made to throw off these horrible weights that crushed him were like those of a man awakened from a nightmare. He was sorely

around in de woods. When Sunday come, she des slip into de churches lak a li'l mouse and nibble up de gospel crumbs and den run away before de priests catch her. Dark days dose, in de old Ballantyne mansion! And den come de night when dey pacted. You done heah about dat?"

The old colored mammy was right. "They just grew apart," as it was inevitable that they should. Perfect self-manifestation is the true principle and law of love, and when a guilty secret comes between two lovers, suspicion and fear inevitably result. They become incomprehensible to each other.

It was a frightful discipline; but she became more patient, gentle and resigned, and in proportion as she grew in these graces, her lover's awe and fear increased, and so they drifted farther and farther apart. Such relationships cannot continue forever, and they generally terminate in tragedy.

After the first few months' excitement of his new life, David's conscience began to torment him anew. He became melancholy, then moody, and finally fell into the habit of sitting for hours among the crowds, which swarmed the gambling rooms, brooding over his secret. From stage to stage in the evolution of his remorse he passed until he at last reached that of superstition, which attacks the soul of the gambler as rust does iron. And so the wretched victim of many vices sat one evening at the close of the second year with his hat drawn down over his eyes, reflecting upon his past.

"What's the matter, Davy?" asked a player who had lost his stake, and was whistling good-humoredly as he left the room.

"Leave me alone," David growled, and reached for a glass mug containing a strong decoction of which he was resorting more and more as his troubles grew intolerable. A strange thing happened! As he put it to his lips its bottom dropped upon the table and the contents streamed into his lap and down to the floor. It was the straw that broke the camel's back; for it had aroused a superstitious terror.

With a smothered cry he sprang to his feet and gazed around upon his companions. They, too, had observed the untoward accident, and to them as well as to him it was a symbol of disaster. Not one of them doubted that the bottom would fall out of his fortunes as out of his glass, for by such signs as these the gambler reads his destiny.

He pulled himself together and made a jest of the accident, but it was impossible for him to dissipate the impression it had made on the minds of his companions or to banish the gloom from his own soul. And so after a few brave but futile efforts to break the spell of apprehension, he slipped quietly away, opened the door and passed out into the night.

(To be continued.)

## PREY OF THE TIGER.

### Has Preference for Human Flesh After Once Tasting It.

In the intervals of rest and recreation which Mr. Rees doubtless allows himself he may do worse than give his most attentive consideration to certain facts mentioned by a writer in the Indian Forester bearing upon the evolution of the forest tiger's taste, first for cattle and then for human meat, the India Daily News says.

When tired of the monotony of the menu provided by deer or wild pig the forest tiger develops a taste for domestic cattle, and then its modus operandi is a very interesting study. The menu is changed from deep forest to cattle-breeding area, where the tiger leisurely carries on its depredations until shot—an operation which, however it might shock Mr. Rees, is one of the most beneficent acts of the sportsman.

As the writer in the aforesaid periodical says, the transition from cattle slaying to man slaying is not a great step. Where cattle abound human beings are, and once the tiger has tasted the human meat it develops an extraordinary passion for it. And so it must have its daily feed. It goes anywhere in search of food.

Many years ago a tiger swam the Rangoon river, nearly a mile in width, and landed in the heart of the locality, crept under the raised floor of a Burman hut and was promptly slaughtered.

About six years ago a large tiger was observed on the platform of the Shwe-Dogan pagoda at Rangoon and was shot by a party of soldiers told off for the purpose. The superstitious Burmese attributed the outbreak of plague in Rangoon to the shooting of this tiger, which they declared was some particular manifestation of the Buddha. It is a curious fact, however, that the plague outbreak occurred shortly afterward, and the city has not since been free of the scourge.

## A Compromise.

"You'll have to send for another doctor," said the one who had been called after a glance at the patient.

"Am I so ill as that?" gasped the sufferer.

"I don't know just how ill you are," replied the man of medicine, "but I know you're the lawyer who cross-examined me when I appeared as an expert witness. My conscience won't let me kill you, and I'll be hanged if I want to cure you. Good day."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Before and After.

She was a frivolous, fashionable young woman with beaux galore, but one man with only a small income seemed to be the favorite.

"You'll have to work hard before you win that girl," said his mother. "And a good deal harder after you win her," answered his father, who knew what he was talking about.—Tit-Bits.

Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another.—Peabody.