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SHIPPING BILLS.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Dingley of Maine, who is engaged in a genuine attempt to revive congressional interest in shipping and shipping laws, succeeded recently in suspending the rules and passing his bill establishing a bureau of navigation in the treasury department. This bill, which will probably encounter no opposition in the senate, marks the first step toward encouraging a new mercantile marine. Its object is to duplicate the British board of trade by consolidating the duties now performed by three divisions of the treasury into one person to be called commissioner of navigation. Upon this man, who is to be appointed by the president, will devolve the duty of suggesting amendments to the present antiquated navigation laws and carrying on a general investigation in the disappearance of American ships from the seas. For a few years, of course, the commissioner's labors will be theoretical, but afterwards, Mr. Dingley says, he may have important functions to perform.

On Saturday the house supplemented this legislation by passing Dingley's bill to remove burdens from the merchant marine, and among other things adopted an amendment by "Sunset" Cox allowing the importation of vessels of less than 6000 tons free of duty, and admitting all such vessels not used in the coastwise trade to American registry. This provision, however, it is feared, will be struck out by the senate, but the bill will surely pass.

The Labor Problem in Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, April 29.—The Press prints a lengthy report made by a staff correspondent concerning the causes of the labor troubles in the Pennsylvania mining regions. It says the objection to the Hungarians lies chiefly against their forced immigration, under special arrangement with steamship companies, and their economic habits, by which they underwork old miners, and sending their earnings out of the country. The correspondent says: "The revolt against pauper labor is by no means confined to this region, but reaches to most parts of the state, where great crowds of skilled laborers are employed. New immigrants coming into the coal regions here cause the same agitation as the Chinese did in California. Perhaps the objections are not so broad, nor as just, but they are of the same general nature. English, Welsh, Irish, and almost all other miners are getting restless at the sight of these laborers. Already boys stone them in the street. They claim they came to this country to become citizens, and add to their wealth and character. They bring families to raise, and increase the sum of our population, while the Hungarians and others have no intention of becoming citizens, and no intention of keeping their families here. They live upon as little as will sustain life, and will work for almost anything. Twenty-five cents to a dollar a day is the range of their wages. They house themselves as thickly as the Chinese, and their manner of living is worse. They average \$10 monthly in expenses, while every dollar over that is sent back to the old country." The correspondent concludes: "The problem presented is difficult. The precedent established by congress to satisfy the clamor of the Pacific coast is cited constantly to maintain the cause of those who insist that these cheap laborers 'must go.' If these distinctions are continued the question of immigration in this country must very soon become a momentous one."

Is the Interest of the Laboring Man.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—The presidential election being in progress, congress, within two weeks, has shown a disposition to legislate in the alleged interest of the laboring men. Over a week ago the house passed Hopkins' bill to establish and maintain a bureau of statistics, and Senator Blair reported the same bill from the senate committee on education and labor, giving notice that at an early day he would ask its consideration. Senator George has reported favorably from the same committee the bill prohibiting the importation of foreign labor. This is called "an act to protect American labor." George also gave notice that he would ask the senate to take it up very soon. Both these bills are in the line of restrictive legislation sanctioned by congress in the passage of the Chinese bill in 1882. The first named requires the commissioner, among other things, to collect statistics about the number, character, condition and classification of Chinese laborers in the United States. Such statistics, as Senator of California pointed out in a speech made week before last, would do much toward inducing the east to join with the Pacific coast in forever excluding Chinese. The bureau of statistics bill will probably become a law, but the chances of George's bill, under which coolies could be excluded, are slim.

Senator Dolph presented a bill today from the Portland board of trade, asking congress to suspend the coinage of silver dollars, and provide for the issue of one and two dollar notes.

Railroad Notes.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The Herald says: "The completion of the Mexican Central from El Paso to the City of Mexico is already beginning to produce the same effect in the trade of that place which the junction of the Central and the Union Pacific railroads at Ogden did upon the trade of San Francisco. The northern and many of the central states of Mexico

now find the markets of Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans open to them on better terms than the City of Mexico, and these advantages will be multiplied by the completion of the Mexican National and other roads piercing Mexico from below El Paso."

NEW YORK, April 29.—In connection with the proposition to cancel the Oregon and Transcontinental lease of the Oregon and California railroad, it was stated yesterday that efforts were being made to induce the holders of the \$8,000,000 Oregon and Transcontinental loan to give up their option on its securities.

Taking Out Stumps by Blasting.

The Willamette Farmer gives the following description of the manner in which Mr. F. J. Beatty removes stumps: "He made a small hole under the stump, large enough to get in a cartridge and stick of giant powder. The object of this was to make a cavity large enough to insert the Judson powder. After setting off this charge we invariably found a cavity of ample size. Clearing it out the Judson powder (about twelve pounds) was placed underneath the stump; a third of a stick of giant powder with a giant powder cap on a piece of fuse inserted into it was laid alongside the Judson and then the whole cavity was filled up again and the earth tamped down carefully. Of course the utmost caution was observed. The match was applied to the slow fire and it was communicated to the cap, which has twice the power of a gunshot, which in turn set off the giant powder, and was sufficient to open up a stump five feet across and weighing many tons. The whole mass would rise up bodily in the air and the roots for yards around lay bare and slivered into a thousand pieces. The process is simply to clear out a good place under the stump, then set off the Judson powder and your stump is out and in suitable shape to remove either by firing or hauling off with a team. The cost is comparatively light, and can be summed up about as follows: Twelve pounds of Judson, \$1.20; giant powder (1.6 pounds) 10¢; fuse, 5¢; total, \$1.35. To remove a stump five feet through, weighing three tons. To this must be added the labor of excavating and clearing. We venture to say that it will cost not to exceed \$1.50 to remove a stump as above stated. It would take two men two days to grub out such a stump, to say nothing about removing it after taken out."

Women as Wheat Speculators.

From a broker the Chicago Tribune has learned that there are perhaps at least 500 women in that city who speculate regularly, and that many leading brokers refuse their custom. "They kick first, last, and always," he said, "if they lose; and if they win a dollar or two or \$50 they talk you to death. They are governed by dreams and visions, and if the market goes against them, they swear by the dream, and say that they have been swindled. I suppose there are many women possessed of private fortunes who extract a pleasure from speculation, but they generally do business through some personal friend on the regular board, and not on the call-board. I know from experience that there are very few men who would permit their wives to engage in such practices. It is not a womanly pastime, to say the least, and ought, I think, to afford grounds for divorce. It makes the woman hard and coarse, destroys their beauty, and turns a happy, handsome creature into an ugly pest, for gambling is sure to become a monomania with them, and they can talk nothing else. I know of the wife of a prominent merchant who got so badly 'left' that she pawned her diamonds for \$500, not long ago, and would have lost them but for her husband, who found it out at the last moment and redeemed them. Then he got a gun and went around to see the broker. The latter, however, happened to be out, or there might have been bloodshed. So, as I said before, I don't want any of it in mine."

The Work of a Single Hair.

In the base of the capitol at Washington is the engine by which the house, senate and committee rooms are warmed and ventilated, and the gas lighted by electricity. It is also together a big apparatus, consisting of three immense fans, four engines and eight boilers, with the necessary appliances for regulating the temperature and moisture of the air supplied to the nation's legislators. The instrument which tells whether the air is too moist or too dry is operated by a single human hair. A perfectly dry hair is put at 0; saturated air, that is, air carrying all the moisture it will hold, is put at 100. A dial with a hand like that of a clock represents the different degrees from 9 to 100. The human hair absorbs moisture like a rope, and, like a rope, it becomes shorter when wet. The difference in length between a hair 6 inches long when wet and the same hair when dry is made to represent the hundred degrees of moisture on the dial; and the hand or pointer moves backward or forward as the moisture in the air varies. If it becomes too dry more steam is thrown in; if too moist, less steam is allowed to escape, and thus the atmosphere for the nation's statesmen is regulated and kept at the healthful point, which is about 50°.

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