

The Daily Morning Astorian.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1885.

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CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. - Allison, from the committee on appropriations, pursuant to the recommendation of the president, reported a bill, which passed, providing for the compensation and expenses of special electoral messengers to be sent to Iowa and Oregon, for the return of the late presidential election in those states. Edmunds, calling Frye to the chair, took the floor and called up the bill yesterday offered by him, providing that the president may appoint to the retired list one person who has occupied the position of general commanding armies of the United States or general-in-chief of the United States army. He moved to amend it by adding "with the rank and full pay of such general or general-in-chief, as the case may be." The amendment was agreed to. Cockrell desired to record his vote against the bill, not knowing whether the yeas and nays would be called on it. The retired list was no place for a private citizen. It had been created for officers who, being still in the service, had been rendered unfit for duty. There was neither justice or propriety in placing a private citizen on that list. General Grant was now enjoying the receipt of \$15,000 a year, which was enough for the support of any American citizen. Edmunds bill to place General Grant on the retired list, with the full rank and pay of general, passed the senate after a short debate - yeas 49, nays 9. Edmunds spoke strongly and feelingly in favor of the bill. Among the Democrats Maxey, Voorhees, George, Gibson and Jonas spoke in its favor. The senators who voted "nay" were Beck, Cockrell, Coke, Harris, Pendleton, Satsbury, Slater, Vance and Walker.

The senate, upon motion of Hale, took up the naval appropriation bill. The senate appropriation committee's amendments were concurred in, and the bill passed.

The chair laid before the senate the inter-state commerce bill. Slater offered an amendment, prohibiting the charging of higher rates of compensation for transporting the same kind and amount of property a shorter than a longer distance. Slater described the operation of the principle of discrimination against "short hauls," and the sufferings of western communities in consequence. Cullom said the amendment was important, but in his opinion its adoption would result in disaster to the railroads.

Van Wyck favored Slater's amendment and cited illustrations of discriminations practiced by railroads and combinations made by companies to resist all attempts of the public to remedy the evil.

Cullom said the adoption of Slater's amendment would seriously injure not only the producers of the west but consumers of the east. It would injure hundreds of thousands of people.

Van Wyck had often heard this statement made, but had then no proof of it. The people of Nebraska as well as Iowa, Illinois and other states, were suffering from extortions from railroads. He would like to know how a community could be benefited by a railroad charging as they did in an instance cited by him, \$800 for a carload delivered 600 miles east of San Francisco, and charging only \$400 for a carload delivered in San Francisco, 600 miles beyond.

Hoar favored a commission, and said the Massachusetts railroad commission had accomplished results hardly less than marvelous.

Coke inquired whether a commission could act for the whole United States as advantageously as for a single state.

Hoar thought it would not enter into so much minutiae, but could do great good.

Slater explained that his amendment would have the effect to prohibit a company from charging from Chicago to any point west of New York a greater sum than it charged from Chicago to New York. If it charged \$100 a car to New York, it should not charge more than \$100 a car to any point between Chicago and New York. He defended his amendment, as tending to build up places of moderate size, instead of concentrating population so densely in a few large cities. He also cited cases of extortion growing out of discriminations by railroads in favor of large cities.

Allison thought Slater's amendment was a radical departure from the principle of a commission embodied in the bill. It would be fixing a cast-iron rule. Sharp competition by railroad and water routes rendered the establishment of such a rule on a matter so material, undesirable. The principle of the amendment would be impossible of application without serious effect. At the risk of some criticism, Allison, for one, preferred to favor the appointment of a commission of eminent men, as provided by the bill, thoroughly to examine the subject, and give their combined and mature judgment; and not take the hasty judgment of one man, who has not examined the subject. He believed in making haste slowly in this matter. Commissions had been successful in several states; let a commission be tried for the United States.

Harrison called the attention of the senate to the death of Hon. Schuyler Colfax, who had been presiding officer of the senate and

vice president of the United States. After a few brief but feeling words of eulogy of deceased by Harrison and Sherman, Harrison offered a resolution reciting that the senate had heard with great sorrow of Colfax's death, and out of respect to his memory the senate do now adjourn. The senate accordingly adjourned.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. - Randall sent to the clerk's desk and had read a letter received from the secretary of state, informing the house that the certificates of the electoral votes of Iowa and Oregon not having been received by the president pro tem. of the senate it became incumbent on him to send a special messenger to each of those states, as required by law. The secretary requests that an appropriation be made to pay the expenses and compensation of these messengers.

The speaker laid before the house a message from the president on the same subject.

NOTE - The missing certificates are the duplicates required to be sent by mail. Their non-receipt will not affect the counting of the electoral vote, as certificates have already been received from Iowa and Oregon by messenger; but the law under which the secretary of state has acted is mandatory.

Randall then introduced a bill, which passed, appropriating \$1,500 for the compensation and expenses of these messengers.

Mills introduced a bill to create a revenue commission. Referred. [This is similar to the bill introduced in the senate by Beck, the 5th inst.]

Wait called up the Chinese indemnity fund bill, and after a short explanation the bill passed. [It authorizes the president to cause the residue of the Chinese indemnity fund to be converted into coin and cause the sum of \$253,100 to be returned to the Chinese government, and the balance covered into the treasury, provided that before payment to China the secretary of state shall pay from the fund to the executors of C. E. Heil \$130,000 on account of the vessel *Keokuk*.]

On motion of Randall the senate amendments to the bill for the payment of messengers sent for the certificates of the electoral votes of Oregon and Iowa, were concurred in. Adjourned.

MEASURES RELATING TO THE NORTH-WEST.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. - It had been agreed to report favorably Representative George's bill to give Portland, Or., and Port Townsend, W. T., the benefit of immediate transportation of dutiable goods in bond. Also, with amendments, George's bill to grant the Astoria and Winemucca Railroad Company the right to construct bridges over navigable water courses.

The house committee on public lands today considered the senate amendments to the bill for the forfeiture of the unearned land grant of the Oregon Central railway. A proposition to concur in the amendments was lost, by a tie vote, five members voting each way. The subject then went over to the next meeting of the committee, on Friday.

Senator Slater introduced a bill in the senate to-day, providing for an additional land district in Washington territory, to have an office at Ontario, Whitman county, and for the necessary officials, a register and a receiver, to run the same.

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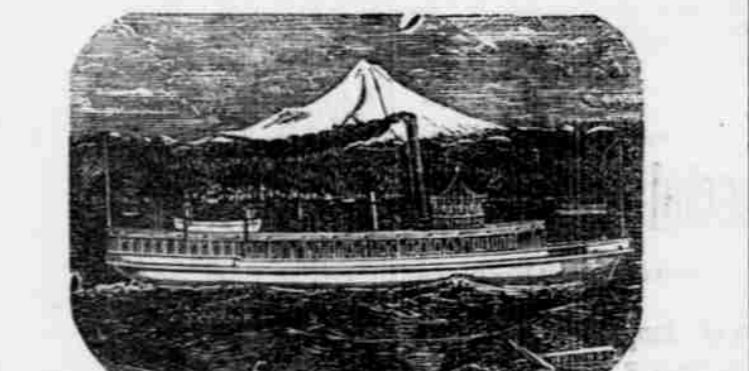
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