

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Saturday, April 7.

Washington, April 7.—The house did not indulge itself in the usual half holiday today, but continued the consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill, and in the latitude accorded under general debate the discussion took on a wide range, including railway mail pay, increased pay for rural letter carriers, the American smelter trust and the corrupt use of money in elections, with side lights on naturalization laws.

Dalzell, Republican, of Pennsylvania, called up the bill amending the internal revenue laws to prevent the double taxation of certain distilled spirits. He asked that the bill be considered by the house as in committee of the whole, possibly anticipating some debate. Before he could make any statement, the speaker had the bill read a third time, indorsed and passed, while general laughter over the expeditious way the speaker disposed of legislation ran around the chamber.

Friday, April 6.

Washington, April 6.—In making an effort today to get the senate to agree upon a date for taking a vote on the railroad rate bill, Tillman made the important statement that one week more probably would exhaust the general debate. He failed, however, to secure the consent of Aldrich, who said that he would not be willing to agree to vote on the bill until it was more nearly perfected than it now is.

During the day there were three speeches on the rate bill. The first of these was made by Elkins, who, while expressing the opinion that the situation demands legislation, indicated many defects in the pending bill. Gable followed in support of the bill, and Kean closed in opposition. Elkins was frequently interrupted, and several spirited colloquies marked the progress of his remarks. No senator being prepared to speak tomorrow, the senate adjourned until Monday.

Washington, April 6.—Tariff railway mail subsidies, denaturalized alcohol and enlarged postal facilities for Western cities were the features of the debate in the house today. What were alleged to be the inequities of the Dingley law, so far as the manufacture of watches is concerned, were discussed by Rainey, of Illinois, whose tariff revision speech was listened to with much interest. The "stand-patters" made copious notes for the discussions on protection which are freshened.

Without touching the merits of the postoffice appropriation bill, which nominally was under discussion, the house at 5:15 adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Thursday, April 5.

Washington, April 5.—The postoffice appropriation bill, following an immemorial custom, was made the vehicle for a number of speeches today having no bearing on the subject under discussion, but of general interest to the country. The rights of labor were discussed by Towne, of New York; goods road, by Lee, of Georgia; railway mail pay by Stearnson, of Minnesota, and protective tariff by Rainey, of Illinois. Incident to his speech on labor, Towne spoke of the increased power given the speaker of the house by the rules now in force. He said that, if the house ever has its ancient dignity and power restored, it will be after it has vindicated the right of discussion of all public questions.

Washington, April 5.—In the senate today there was a re-echo of the White house conference of last Saturday relative to the pending railroad legislation, and, while the discussion ended in good nature, there was a time when the feeling was quite intense. The incident occurred at the close of a speech by Stone, which was devoted largely to a discussion of that conference.

Elkins has given notice of a speech on the rate bill for tomorrow and Bailey for a speech on that subject Tuesday. The Texas senator will reply especially to the criticisms made by Spooner and Knox, of his plan for a limitation of the powers of inferior courts in granting injunctions in rate litigation.

Newlands continued his argument in support of his proposition for the national incorporation of railroad companies.

Wednesday, April 4.

Washington, April 4.—In the senate today Newlands discussed the railroad rate bill and Daniel the question of the

Pay for Conference at Rio.

Washington, April 3.—The senate committee on appropriations today reported the urgent deficiency bill with a number of amendments. The proviso is added to the appropriation for delegates to the International Conference of American States at Rio Janeiro, Brazil, that the delegates shall be appointed so that as far as practicable they shall represent the different sections of the country. An appropriation of \$50,000 is made to enable the government to participate in the second international peace conference at The Hague.

Circulation of National Banks.

Washington, April 3.—The monthly circulation statement shows that at the close of business March 31, 1906, the total circulation of National banks was \$554,666,967, an increase for the year of \$78,718,022, and for the month of \$3,863,072. The circulation based on United States bonds amounted to \$132,221,551, an increase for the year of \$67,351,372, and for the month of \$5,047,985. Amount of circulation secured by lawful money was \$42,445,416.

MOROCCO PROTOCOL LONG.

Powers Will Combine to Induce Sultan to Approve Reforms.

Algeiras, Spain, April 4.—The protocol of the conference on Moroccan affairs, copies of which are in course of preparation for signature by the delegates on Saturday, is a formidable document of 123 sections.

The opening paragraph sets forth the desire of the powers to assure peace and prosperity in Morocco by reforms, without violating the three principles of sovereignty of the sultan, integrity of his domain and commercial equality, at the same time pointing out the method of procuring the resources necessary to carry out the reform proposed.

Details follow, relative to the delegates' decisions concerning the organization of the police, the repression of contraband traffic in arms, the establishment of a state bank, the creation of fresh revenue and the control of customs and public works. The signatory powers undertake to introduce legislation ratifying the engagements of the delegates.

Final ratification of the protocol will occur not later than December 13, of this year at Madrid. Meantime the signatory powers reciprocally engage to endeavor to obtain the sultan's integral adherence to the reforms outlined in order to make them simultaneously operative. The reform will be effective December 31, 1906. Existing treaties between Morocco and the various powers will retain validity, but in the event of conflict between treaties and the conference's protocol the latter will take precedence.

MINES OPENING.

Operators at Many Points Sign Scale With Miners.

Pittsburg, April 4.—With the exception of one or two points outside of the Pittsburg district, the strained situation between the operators and miners in the soft coal fields of Western Pennsylvania is hourly growing more pacific. Following the signing of the scale yesterday demanded by the miners, the mines of the operators who signed the scale resumed their operations today, although in many instances with reduced forces.

In the Pittsburg district there were 18,000 miners working and 1,200 idle. Nearly all of the mines of the Pittsburg Coal company were in operation, and it was expected that those men who are out would return within a day or so. It was explained that following holidays it was generally several days before all the men returned to their labor. The cause of the idleness today, however, was said to be their failure to receive word of the signing of the scale.

The independent operators met tonight and decided not to sign the scale and not to work their mines nonunion. They employ between 12,000 and 14,000 men, and they are all idle.

The entire nonunion field of the Allegheny valley will continue work without interruption. This is what is known as the Freeport vein.

COMING BY THOUSANDS.

Extra Trains Required to Take Homeseekers to Northwest.

St. Paul, Minn., April 4.—The homeseekers' travel continues heavy and tonight more than 4,000 holders of these tickets had appeared at the Union depot. All the regular overland passenger trains were sent out in double sections, and the Canadian contingent via the "Soo" line went out tonight in three sections, taking about 1,000 passengers.

The Great Northern and Northern Pacific sent out each two special trains, while each of the five regular trains carried from three to five extra coaches to accommodate the rush. These passengers were bound for Oregon and Washington.

Tomorrow railroad men say the rush will exceed any day since the low rates went into effect, and the most conservative estimate the arrivals at 5,000. The one-way colonist rates put in effect February 15 will expire tomorrow, but will be renewed and continued throughout the summer. Indiana, Illinois and Missouri are furnishing the bulk of the homeseekers' travel.

Texas Cattle Law Invalid.

Washington, April 4.—In an opinion by Justice Brown the Supreme court of the United States today decided the case of the Honston & Texas Central railway vs. J. A. Mayes in favor of the company. Mayes ordered 17 cars, in which to ship 625 head of cattle. The cars arrived 24 hours after the time set in the agreement. Mayes sued, under a Texas law, for damages done his cattle by the delay and also, under the state law, to recover \$25 per car on his contract with the company. The lower courts upheld the complainant.

Big Guns Without Gunners.

Washington April 4.—Some surprising facts regarding the inadequacy of the coast artillery force were brought out in the recent examination of Secretary Taft by the senate committee on military affairs. The secretary presented data showing that the present authorized force of coast artillery is sufficient to provide one relief for only 34 per cent of the guns, mines, range finders, etc., now actually installed or authorized for the coast defenses.

Conference on Statehood Bill.

Washington, April 4.—The session of the joint conference on statehood today was devoted to a discussion of the main proposition, the senate amendment eliminating Arizona and New Mexico from the bill.

HOLDING HER GRIP

Russia Refuses to Give Up Manchurian Claims.

CHINA CONSIDERS THEM INVALID

Deadlock is Reached in Negotiations, But Russia is in Possession—Both Work Secretly.

Peking, April 5.—The Russo-Chinese negotiations appear to have reached a deadlock. At any rate, they are dragging along slowly. M. Pokotiloff, the Russian minister to China, and Tong, the Chinese commissioner appointed to negotiate an agreement with Russia regarding Northern Manchuria, have conferred only two or three times during the past month.

Russia has the upper hand, because she holds nearly all the privileges she contends for, while demanding that China officially grant them. The Chinese, on the contrary, it is said, are also determined to withstand all foreign encroachments. Both parties are trying to keep the details as secret as was the case with the Chinese-Japanese treaty.

One contention is believed to be about the mining and other concessions which the Tartar generals in Manchuria gave to Russian corporations, and which Russia wants the Chinese government to ratify. The Chinese, however, insist that their government never sanctioned these concessions, and that therefore they are invalid.

IRRIGATED LAND TOWNSITES.

House Passes Bill Allowing Sale of Lots for Reclamation Fund.

Washington, April 5.—Representative French today called up and passed through the house Senator Heyburn's general townsites bill, authorizing the Reclamation service to set aside townsites on government irrigation tracts and sell lots at public auction, the money going into the reclamation fund instead of into the treasury, as it would under the general townsites law. The bill also provides that towns on reclamation tracts and other towns may receive a municipal water supply from government canals, and where there is surplus power developed under any project, it may be leased for ten-year periods, the money to go into the reclamation fund.

The Reclamation service considers this bill highly important, believing it will ultimately yield from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

The bill passed today is not the Heyburn townsites bill recently reported. This bill probably will not be passed, because general opposition developed in the house.

DECLINES TO INTERFERE.

President Refuses to Appoint Commission on Strike.

Washington, April 5.—It is stated at the White house that the president has made a reply to the telegram received from the coal operators and that while the text will not be made public, there is authority for the statement that the president has decided not to interfere as long as conditions remain as they now are.

Columbus, O., April 5.—John H. Winder, president of the Ohio Operators association, today gave out part of a letter he has received from President Roosevelt, in which the president answers the request that a commission be appointed by him to settle the miners' strike. The president said:

"To appoint a committee to meet with the miners and operators, as you request, would necessitate action on the part of congress. As yet, I am not prepared to say what action I personally will or can take in the matter."

Changes in Coeur d'Alene Bill.

Washington, April 5.—By unanimous consent of the Idaho delegation, the Idaho delegation, the senate amendment to the Indian appropriation bill authorizing the opening of the Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation to settlement was altered to make all save mineral land subject to homestead entry, but no commutation is allowed on timber land. This was done at the instance of Dubois to prevent large timber corporations from gobbling up all the best timber. Change was made to open the reservation by act of congress.

Insure Their Own Hops.

San Francisco, April 5.—The hopgrowers of Sonoma county who are members of the Hopgrowers' exchange will soon organize an insurance company of their own and will insure their own crops, particularly during that dangerous period, the drying season. The growers believe that they can insure their product more cheaply than the old line companies. The Sonoma hopgrowers control almost the entire hop crop of the state.

Prepares to Fight America.

Moscow, April 5.—General von Mack, the Russian representative of the Red Cross, has just returned here from Japan. He declares that the Japanese are actively engaged in war preparations and he adds that it is evident that the enemy in view is America, and that operations are being planned against the Philippine islands.

THE OLD WATER MILL.

Its Passing Brings Many a Sigh of Genuine Regret.

The onrush of civilization has removed to a great extent one of the romantic and pleasant features of the pioneers—a theme for painters and poets from days remote. In these days of much haste and swift machinery, it perhaps would not fit in with the times to go to mill on horseback and await one's turn at the old water mill, but still it was not so bad, after all, to sit about in the mill yard half a day at a time and play marbles, pitch, quotta, or fish.

Those were the days when people were not in such a hurry as they are now—a time when hours were not worth just so much each, like eggs in a basket—and they were given a few extra years to make up for the time lost in going to mill and hunting the cows—a time when a backlog cracked in the wide-mouthed fire place and a man had an opportunity to get acquainted with his family.

The old water mill and the accompanying mill pond seem to have been a half-way point between savagery and our present civilization and a de-



THE OLD WATER MILL.

videdly interesting epoch to those whose memory goes back that far. There were the delightful days of fishing in the leafy months, the dark pools below the dam, the little sand-bars and riffles, and the log projecting out over some particularly inviting spot, where big sunfish came up to a hooked cricket or grasshopper without hesitancy or suspicion—and there was always water in the creek. That was why there were always flowers and green grass along the shores, and why the boys could always find a place to wade and wade until their ankles turned purple in the swirling waters. Then when winter came the scene changed. There was never a better place to skate than on an old mill pond, and the skaters did not have fancy clamp skates which one can put on and take off in two seconds. No, they were the old-style strap skates with a screw an inch long to be bored into the heel. The young man fortunate enough to get hold of two worn out files or a discarded saw blade was the hero of the community. He could make skates out of them with long, graceful turns in front which were the envy of all the beholders. It was a small hardship to sit on a snowy log half an hour boring at a refractory heel, but the end justified the exertion.

In those days every little settlement had its own grist and sawmill combined. To be sure the mills did not grind very fast and the saws would not do for cutting mahogany veneering, but they answered the purposes of the times—the days of the candle dip, the tin lantern and the punctured hide sleeves, a step in advance of the period when breadstuffs were secured by pounding grain into meal. Sometimes two or three mills would be found on a little stream ten miles in length. One acted as a reservoir for another, and kept the valley moistened the whole season through, the little stream a live, running brook. Now, those streams are either a raging torrent or in turn as dry and parched as a brick pavement. This is one of the penalties of advancing civilization.

As land became more valuable, like the poor Indian, the old water mill had to move on westward. There was too much good land under water to suit the thrifty owner, and he substituted steam for water power, and the old mill which seemed to be a part of the landscape was no more. The settlement mill is a thing of the past with all its attendant pleasures and hardships. The old water mill was to our ancestors what the trolley car and the electric light is to us—a means to an end—and when something else was found to serve the purpose better they adopted it, but still we cannot part with the old mill of our youth without a sigh of regret.

Making Use of Opportunity.

"We Americans eat too much," said the scientist.

"Yes," said the ordinary citizen. "We see the cost of food going up so fast that we feel there is no time to lose."—Washington Star.

Conquest of the Great American Desert

Irrigation.

"American irrigation was old when Rome was in the glory of its youth," says C. J. Blanchard in "The National Geographic Magazine." "The ancient aqueducts and subterranean canals of South America, extending for thousands of miles, once supplied great cities and irrigated immense areas. Centuries before the venturesome Norsemen landed upon the bleak and inhospitable shores of New England a large population dwelt in the hot valleys of the far southwest. From the solid rock, with primitive tools of stone, they cut ditches and hewed the blocks for many chambered palaces, which they erected in the desert or on the limestone ledges of deep river canyons. These voiceless ruins, older than the memory of many centuries, tell the story of a thrifty, home loving and well-cultured people, concerning whose fate history brings us no word. In these palaces and in many miles of canals we may almost read the story of another Egypt—a people toiling under the burning sun of the desert, wearily and patiently executing the commands of an American Pharaoh."

In the last quarter of a century a crop, producing area of 10,000,000 acres, equal in size to the State of Massachusetts, has been wrested from the desert. Irrigation canals long enough to span the earth twice and representing an outlay of \$90,000,000 have been built. Every year this area returns a harvest valued at nearly twice the cost of the irrigation canals. The United States is to-day the largest owner of the great American desert—no doubt as Mr. Blanchard explains, because it was not considered worth stealing. For many years the sentiment has been growing that the government should make this vast empire habitable and this sentiment crystallized into the reclamation law, signed by President Roosevelt on June 17, 1902.

The first of the great irrigation works to be undertaken by the government is in Nevada. In the bed of ancient Lake Lahontan and embracing what was long known as Forty Mile desert, the most desolate and arid spot on this continent except Death Valley, the engineers completed the plans for an extensive irrigation work involving some rather novel engineering features, the greatest and most important of which is that of lifting the waters of the Truckee River into the great canal, which will carry them over into the Carson River reservoir, whence they are diverted into laterals and carried out upon the desert. When completed the Truckee-Carson works will cost more than \$9,000,000 and render productive more than 400,000 acres now absolutely worthless, but which, when irrigated, will sell readily for \$30,000,000, it is estimated.

People Who Eat Clay.

Clay eaters are found in the West Indies, Honduras and some of the regions round the Orinoco. They are not necessarily of any particular tribe, for even whites have fallen victims to this degrading and fatal habit. The habit is contracted at as early an age as 12 years, and the craving once acquired appears to be irresistible. Confirmed clay eaters will lie down and lick the earth where the edible clay is found.

They suffer from chronic dyspepsia and emaciation; but, in spite of the pain and weakness, they cannot do without the clay any more than the confirmed drunkard can do without his alcohol. In some localities this clay is whitish gray, sometimes yellowish-pink. There appears to be lime in it, and also the remains of minute organisms. It is sometimes eaten baked and sometimes raw.

A confirmed clay eater will take four, five, or even six pounds a day. Water is drunk with it. At length the habit seems to give an aversion not only to other kinds of food, but also to alcoholic drinks. As soon as this stage is reached the eating of clay invariably causes death.

Snake on the Gas Meter.

Arch Davenport, a Fort Scott joker, turned a large snake loose in his cellar under his house. The gas meter was also in the cellar, and for six months his snakeship forced the gas company to give Davenport a flat rate on his gas bill. The young man who reads the meter never got nearer to it than the door. Last week the snake was found dead and the reading of the meter showed that Davenport had paid for only half the gas he had used. He was compelled to put up the balance due.—Kansas City Journal.

Fish Story.

Sunfish—Seems that all food one buys is adulterated these days.

Pike—Sure. I never think of buying any canned preserves or anything like that—my wife makes all such stuff as that. Why, last summer she put up forty gallons of jelly fish. Finest jelly fish that ever went down the pike, too.—Kansas City Times.

And Silence Fell.

Bookkeeper—Gee! Those stenographers are chattering so that I can't do any work. I wish I knew how to shut 'em up.

Cashier—Ask which one of them is the oldest.—Cleveland Leader.

Success comes to the man who can adapt himself quickly to unexpected conditions.