

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Wednesday, April 22
Washington, April 22.—President Roosevelt will veto the naval appropriation bill, should the senate, as did the house, fail to make any appropriation for the two battleships which are authorized by the measure. The prompt announcement of this fact to senate leaders today is regarded as responsible for the announcement by Hale that he would propose an amendment appropriating \$7,000,000 toward the construction of those ships.

The president stated his position on this point with unusual emphasis and suddenness today, upon learning that the bill as passed by the house was simply a "paper" provision for naval increase. Authorization of the ships was made, but no money carried to make the provision effective. Such legislation as this, the president made known to his numerous congressional callers, was a travesty as to effectiveness, as well as bearing all the earmarks of legislative leg-ferdism intended to make ridiculous his campaign for the greater navy.

That the president's quick and vigorous action is to be effective is evidenced by the action of Chairman Hale, of the senate naval committee, in announcing that at the proper time he will propose the \$7,000,000 amendment.

Tuesday, April 21
Washington, April 21.—Against a united democracy which denied the sincerity of the republican majority, the house today, by a vote of 184 to 110, passed Speaker Cannon's resolution providing for an investigation of the paper trust and, in pursuance of its provisions, the speaker announced as the committee of six who will conduct the investigation Mann (Ill.), Miller (Kan.), Stafford (Wis.), Bannon (O.), Sims (Tenn.) and Ryan (N. Y.).

Fitzgerald created laughter by referring to the speaker as "the whole business" in the said that he had told some people, who had written him about wood pulp, not to waste their time on the white house, as the president had in a degree recently lost his influence with the house.

"We will stand by the president to the last ditch," he humorously remarked, "and I expect we and the president will go into the last ditch together."

The McCall campaign publicity bill today was unanimously recommended to the house for passage by the committee on the election of president, vice president and representatives in congress. Though introduced by a republican, it had the undivided support of the democratic members of the committee, and of national publicity law association.

Washington, April 21.—The reported purpose of the president to send the fleet of battleships now on the Pacific coast around the world, was the basis of a discussion in the senate today when the naval appropriation bill was taken up for consideration.

Defending the policy of sending the fleet of battleships to the Pacific ocean, Senator Lodge said great good is already resulting from the long cruise and it is teaching the fleet how to maintain itself away from harbors, by making repairs through its own mechanics on board.

Monday, April 20
Washington, April 20.—It is the present intention of the house leaders to bring the Fulton land grant resolution for consideration in the house tomorrow or Wednesday, and the belief is general that it will pass without amendment. It is now evident that the democratic filibuster will continue to the end of the session, but inquiry discloses that the democrats are generally favorable to the resolution and will not undertake to make it a party measure.

Representative Fordney, the leading representative of the lumbermen, promised last week to withdraw his objection to the resolution, but today he declared that he would continue a fight, as he said the house committee had decided to table Mondell's resolution. The committee has reached no such determination, but intends to report this resolution so that the house can give it fair consideration. The resolution, introduced by Fulton resolution on this ground he will get little support.

Washington, April 20.—After consideration of less than two hours the senate committee on naval affairs today reported the naval appropriation bill to the senate. It carries \$111,546,549, an increase of \$7,579,031 over the amount passed by the house.

On the battleship construction program the senate committee adopted the policy of the house, making no change in the provision for two vessels. The president's message advocating the construction of four battleships was not considered, as it was known that the committee was unanimously opposed to that program.

Millions for District of Columbia
Washington, April 20.—The District of Columbia appropriation bill was reported to the senate today. It carries \$24,587, an increase of \$1,534,388 over the amount of the bill as it was passed by the house.

Open Spokane Indian Land.
Washington, April 17.—The senate today confirmed the appointment of Robert Walker as postmaster at Bandon. The senate also passed Piles' bill opening the Spokane Indian reservation lands to settlement.

Increase Pensions.
Washington, April 23.—The senate committee on pensions today practically completed consideration of the pension appropriation bill. It will carry about \$162,000,000, an increase of \$12,000,000 over the house bill, which has been enacted. The house bill was amended so as to eliminate the provision for abolishing pension agencies throughout the country and consolidating the work of the agencies under the bureau in the city.

Violated Pure Food Law.
Washington, April 22.—As a result of the first convention under the pure food and drugs law, N. Harper, president of the Washington Chamber of Commerce, a drug manufacturer, and one of the best known business men of this city, was today sentenced by Judge Kimball to the police court to pay a fine of \$500 on one count and \$200 on another count of the indictment recently returned against him for manufacturing and selling a mislabeled compound.

ELEPHANT IN AMUCK

Explosion of Oil Tank Blames an Entire Herd.
Riverside, Cal., April 17.—Thrown into a wild panic by the explosion of a huge oil tank in the outskirts of this city, at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, a herd of elephants belonging to the Sells-Floto circus dashed madly through the streets of the residence district driving terror-stricken citizens before them and leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. The leader of the herd invaded the business district before he was recaptured and ran amuck in the court yard of the Glenwood hotel, where he attacked Miss Ella Gibbs, a prominent church woman, planned her against the side of the building with his tusks, then threw her to the ground, trampled upon her and inflicted injuries from which she died at 9:45 o'clock tonight.

Charles D. Chas. a guest of the hotel which is one of the famous hostilities of the coast, attempted to stop the elephant, and was in turn attacked by the infuriated animal, which knocked him down and trampled upon him breaking his leg and otherwise injuring him. The big tusked animal, which was in the wall of the courtyard into the hotel barber shop, wrecking that establishment in gaining Main street, plunged through plate glass window hurling Frank A. Bird to the ground and goring him all but fatally, was rounded up in a livery stable and made captive.

Four other elephants of the main herd, which had in the meantime been recaptured, were brought to the stable to aid in subduing the leader, and before he was chained fast to his comrades the brute added one more to his list of victims by hurling one of his keepers over a high board fence, badly injuring him. Another was added to the list of the injured today when L. K. Worsley, an oil-wagon driver, who was fatally burned in the explosion, was taken to the city hospital. It was from his wagon, it is said, that the fire was communicated to the oil-tank which exploded. Worsley was hurled 20 yards by the explosion and was picked up by his clothing in flames. He is dying.

A second large storage tank filled with oil exploded at the night, and both burned until late in the night. Sixty thousand gallons of oil, including much refined oil in cases, was consumed, together with the buildings adjoining the tanks. The Standard Oil Co.'s loss on the oil is \$7,000,000 and on buildings, \$4,000,000. The circus tents were pitched three blocks from the oil-tanks. When the first muffled explosion occurred, shaking the ground like an earthquake, and the flames shot up several hundred feet into the air, the circus management hurriedly cleared the tents and sent home the crowd which was assembling for the afternoon performance. It was while the tents were being struck that the frightened elephants became unmanageable and stampeded.

Strike Brings Bloodshed.
Chester, Pa., April 17.—Riot and bloodshed marked the third day of the street strike here today, when the Chester Traction company attempted to operate its cars with imported strike-breakers. The strikers and their sympathizers stormed the trolley car that was started out of the barns and in the melee two men were shot.

William Griesemer, a claim agent for the company, was struck on the arm by a bullet and William Borgas, main man of the strikers, was struck in the foot by another bullet. He was dragged from the car and beaten and was rescued from the angry strikers and their sympathizers with difficulty.

Griesemer, besides being wounded had his shoulder dislocated. Several other traction employees were also cut and bruised.

Students Witness Prizefight.
Berkeley, April 17.—Battling Nelson and a number of other representatives of the prize ring, appeared in three-round bouts tonight before a large crowd of students of the University of California, among whom were many coaches. The entertainment was held under the auspices of the Pelydeucan club of the university. The affair, postponed from three weeks ago, was held outside the university grounds, but was sanctioned by the executive of the Associated Students and the faculty of the university.

Great Northern is Blocked.
Butte, Mont., April 17.—Great Northern Agent Stewart, of Wolf Creek reports that the track from Wolf Creek east as far as he can see is flooded to a depth of three feet and that for three miles or more it is completely washed out and in places overturned, while the rails are twisted and bent into every shape by the foaming waters. Twenty-eight miles of track are under water. It is figured conservatively that for at least 20 days no trains can go over the line and no repair work can be done until the water recedes.

Costly Fortune to Race.
Seattle, Wash., April 17.—The New-York-to-Paris race will cost Lieutenant Hans Koepen, of the German army, practically his entire fortune, according to his own statement. He is the only man in the race who is paying his own bills, the other cars having the backing of home authorities or builders. "It was the love of the sport that led me into the race," said Koepen, "and when it is finished my fortune is finished also. Yet I have my salary as an officer and I am content."

Ultimatum to Strikers.
London, April 17.—The shipbuilding employers' federation announced today that unless the ship workers on the Northeast Coast who went on strike in the middle of January, resume work by April 25, all the shipbuilding yards in the country will be closed. Such a lockout would involve directly fully a quarter of a million workmen. The men on the Tyne have twice voted against accepting the settlement arranged by their leaders with the employers.

Uncle Sam Backs China.
Paris, April 17.—The Echo de Paris says that the explanation of the firmer attitude assumed by China with regard to the Japanese in Manchuria was found in the support given to China by the United States, proof of which was given in the remittance of indemnity due from China owing to the troubles in 1900.

RUSSIANS IN A TRAP FULTON IS BEATEN

Forces Surrounded by Hordes of Angry Kurds. Indications That Cake Is Victor for U. S. Senator.

FLOODS CUT OFF ASSISTANCE

Russia Pours Troops and Supplies Into Trans-Caucasia to Crush Rebellious Tribes. Situation is Uncertain.

St. Petersburg, April 21.—The latest news received here of the boundary war between Russian detachments and the Kurds in the Caucasus has been pessimistic and was calling for reinforcements—has aroused the anxiety of the foreign office. It shows that the entire population of this district, composed of well armed and warlike tribes, is rushing to the support of the brigands who have been attacked. The situation may become still more serious if the Kurdish bandits who inhabit Russian territory, encouraged by the retirement of the Russian troops, join their Persian kindred and threaten the Russian communications.

Associated Press dispatches setting forth the grave situation of the Russian detachment in Persia are fully confirmed tonight by official reports. Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholavitch departed quietly from here today for the Crimea, traveling incognito in a reserved compartment of an ordinary coach, instead of private car. The trip ostensibly is for personal reasons and, it is said, will be of short duration, but the Grand Duke's departure just previous to the imperial family reunion for the Easter festivities and to the marriage of Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna to Prince Wilhelm, of Sweden, is considered an indication of a more important object.

Despite diplomatic denials, Russia continues to forward reinforcements and munitions of war to the Caucasus. An American traveler returning from the territory recently said that he saw train after train loaded with soldiers, proceeding in a southerly direction, and the railroad to Kars is so swamped with military stores that it is unable to accept private freight.

TRAIN WRECK KILLS 41

Fire Consumes Bodies of Victims—Injured Wait for Hours.
Melbourne, Australia, April 21.—Two trains from Ballarat and Bendigo, respectively, collided late last night at Braybrook Junction, about eight miles from Melbourne, 41 persons being killed and 60 injured.

The Bendigo train, with two heavy engines, crashed into the rear of the Ballarat train. Five cars of the latter train were wrecked, and the wreckage took fire and almost completely consumed. Many of the bodies were unrecognizable when recovered. The Bendigo train suffered but little damage, but the two engines were piled on top of the rear coaches of the other train. Terrible scenes followed, many of the injured being caught in the wreckage, and were with difficulty rescued. It was a long time before doctors and nurses arrived on the scene and in consequence intense suffering prevailed among the injured.

SULTAN YIELDS.

Allows Establishment of Italian Post-offices and Settlements.
Rome, April 21.—The threatened trouble between Italy and Turkey apparently has ended as a truce in a treaty and for the present at least there will be no demonstration by Italian warships in Turkish waters. Indeed, it now seems likely that the incident will produce a better feeling between Constantinople and Rome, leading to an agreement by the Turkish government to establish postoffices in the Turkish cities where the other powers may have like institutions, and in the manner has been the Italian demand with regard to other questions that have been subjects of dispute.

Motor Cars for Bishops.
London, April 21.—Motor cars have become quite necessities for bishops who wish to economize time when making their episcopal visitations. Several prelates now motor from place to place in their dioceses when performing their duties, among them being the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. In some instances, as for example, in the dioceses of Southwell and St. David's the cars have been presented to the bishops. It is now proposed to present one to the bishop of Newcastle.

Three More Bodies Found.
Boston, Mass., April 18.—Three more corpses were recovered late today from the ruins of Sunday's fire in Chelsea, making the total number now recovered nine. In addition, two persons have died this week of causes incident to the fire.

The bodies recovered today were those of Mrs. Minnie I. Fenwick, wife of Dr. J. B. Fenwick, one of the leading physicians in Chelsea; Mrs. Walter Barnes, of Glen Ridge, niece of Mrs. Fenwick, and Miss Vinie Boyes, of Chelsea, a maid in the employ of the Fenwick family.

Punish Kurdish Raiders.
Tiflis, Trans-Caucasia, April 18.—Russian troops have invaded Persian territory in the vicinity of Lenkoran, a port on the Caspian Sea, for the purpose of punishing Kurdish raiders. The trouble began April 12, when a detachment of Russian troops from Belesvar met a band of Kurdish brigands and lost several men in the subsequent fighting. The brigands also suffered. The Russians in force crossed the frontier and destroyed several villages. They also scattered the Kurds, who numbered in all about 4000.

Scale Committee Agrees.
Toledo, O., April 18.—The scale committee of the Interstate Operators and Miners has practically decided on a two years' basis at 90 cents a ton rate for mining coal, with a satisfactory agreement as to the advantages of working conditions. The scale will be accepted by President Lewis on behalf of the miners with the understanding that he will at once communicate with the various districts and have them vote on the proposition.

Disarming Moros.
Manila, April 21.—Detachments of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth Infantry, with the constabulary and armed auxiliaries, under command of Major Finley, are engaged in disarming the Moros on Basilan Island. The troops are distributed around the coast, co-operating in a series of closing-in movements and seizing all arms.

FLORIDA SPONGE DIVING.

A Growing Industry in Which Greeks Chiefly Are Employed.
The sponge industry at Tarpon Springs, on the west coast of Florida, has assumed large proportions within the past few years. There were in commission at Tarpon Springs last October 400 sponge boats, employing 1,200 hands. About 90 per cent of the spongers are Greeks, who have been in the business all their lives and are the most expert divers in the world. A great many have brought their families to this country to live, and at Tarpon Springs they have settled in the east side of the city, where their homes and places of business are typical of Greece. They also wear their Grecian clothes and speak their native tongue.

The common laborer on the sponge boats receives from \$50 to \$60 per month, the divers getting from \$200 to \$300 in the same period. The sponge boat is from 30 to 40 feet long and of great beam for its length. Most of these boats were brought from Greece, and are staunchly built. There are also a number of schooners which go with the fleets to furnish provisions and carry sponges from the smaller boats. Every boat has one or more divers, who have a complete diving outfit, with 16-pound lead soles on each shoe, also a heavy lead weight on the chest and back. The diver carries no weapon of any kind, being provided only with a sponge bag.

The diver after putting on his suit is lowered over the side of the boat and to the bottom. As he walks along far under the surface he is followed by the boat above, in which is a pump that keeps him supplied with air.

Sponges are gathered from the bottom of the gulf in from 50 to 150 feet of water. The diver will stay down hours at a time, and as fast as a bag is filled it is hoisted to the surface and an empty one sent down.

As is generally known, the sponge is an animal. There are many different kinds, but only three, the silk, wool and grass sponges, have commercial value. After being taken from the water they are left on the decks of the vessels in the sun for a time, to die before they are thrown into the kraals. These kraals or pens are made by driving stakes in the sand a little ways apart so that the ebb and flow of the tide may wash out and in to remove all animal matter. After remaining in the kraals for a time, this being dependent on the season, as sponges die much faster in the summer than winter, the spongers get in among them and mash, scrape and clean the animal matter off. They are then strung in bunches about five feet long, and taken to the sponge packing houses, where they go through the last process of cleaning, and are sized and graded according to quality. They are then packed in bales of 10, 15 and 20 pounds, and shipped to all parts of the world.

In purchasing the sponges representatives of the various jobbing houses meet at the sponge exchange and all the sponges belonging to one man or firm are piled in a heap on the floor. Each representative examines the pile and writes his bid on a blank and gives it to the secretary of the exchange. When all bids are in, the secretary opens them and shows the owner of the sponges the highest. If the price is satisfactory the pile is sold.

These sales are held on Tuesday and Friday of each week, during the season, which runs from Oct. 1 to June 1. In Tarpon Springs there are eight large packing houses preparing sponges for the market. Last season \$750,000 was paid for sponges by representatives of jobbing houses in all parts of the United States and Europe, and this season's harvest will show a large increase.

Auto Is What It Seems.
An automobilist was reading the other day of the device of the Marquis de Tison, who fixed up a racer-like automobile with a puny motor and had the laugh on the gendarme who arrested him for violating the speed law.

"That reminds me of the experience of a friend of mine," he said to a New York Sun reporter. "Two years ago this friend had a runabout with bucket seats and a twenty-four horse-power motor.

"The car was painted red and he couldn't go two blocks without getting held up. So he decided to change the color and had the car painted a demure gray.

"Then he used to be held up because the police said that it was a Vanderbilt cup racer. Finally he had it painted black and hasn't had so much trouble. I have always believed that if a man had a car with a long bonnet which looked as if it covered 100 horse-power and wore a skull cap and goggles and drove leaning 'way forward, he'd get arrested if he were going three miles an hour. I think there are enough instances to prove it."

Too Late.
Marshall P. Wilder, the noted humorist, told a stuttering story at a dinner in Chicago.

"I hate stuttering stories as a rule," he said, "but this one is rather good. It is about two blacksmiths, both stutters. The first snatched a red-hot lump of iron from the forge, rushed with it to the anvil, and then began this conversation:

"N-n-ow th-th-then, st-strike! Qu-quickly!"

"W-w-where shall I s-strike?"
"J-just at the end. It-h-hurry up!"
"Th-th-this end?"
"Y-yes, of c-course. Mind you hit s-s-straight."
"A-all r-right. N-n-now! Shall I l-let her g-g-go?"
"N-n, you f-f-fool, the iron's c-c-cold."

Reduces Competition.
Wayside William (the tramp)—Wenny, did ye notice by th' papers that thousand's of men was going back to work?
Wenny Wiggles—Well, that'll be a good thing for our bizness.
"How so?"
"It reduces competition."—Illustrated Mail.

Schooner Long Overdue.
San Francisco, April 18.—Much anxiety is felt regarding the fate of the American schooner Rosamond. Captain Chose left Gray's Harbor with the schooner February 7, with a cargo of lumber both under and on deck for Callao.

LITERARY LITTLE BITS

Mary Johnston's new novel, "Lewis Rand," is a novel of Virginia in the days of Thomas Jefferson. An interesting feature of the book will be the story of the dramatic contest for supremacy between the party of Jefferson and the Federalist party, headed by Alexander Hamilton.

Dr. W. J. Rolfe, the Shakespearean scholar, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday by the completion of a new volume entitled "Shakespeare's Proverbs." Dr. Rolfe is to provide an introduction and notes. The selection of proverbs, maxims, etc., to be included in the forthcoming volume were originally made by Mrs. Cowden-Clarke and selected from the plays only. Additional selections from the sonnets and other poems of Shakespeare have been made by Dr. Rolfe himself.

Caroline Corner's forthcoming book, "Ceylon, the Paradise of Adam," will give a realistic picture of the native life of Ceylon. The author has spent seven years in the country and has made a thorough study of local conditions. Such characteristic ceremonies and customs as the devil dance, the stromstrom or Portuguese-Ceylon dance, the thanksgiving ceremony, the annual festival of the Singhalessa, the Jee-wama, a very exclusive rite, and the local form of celebrating nuptials are all described.

The Earl of Rosebery, himself one of the statesmen who have achieved fame in letters, writing of "Bookishness and Statesmanship" for the North American Review says: "Among great men of action we recall Frederick's love of letters and Napoleon's traveling library. Among statesmen we think of Pitt's sofa with its shelf of thumbed classics; and of Fox, a far more ardent lover of books, exchanging them and his garden for the House of Commons almost with tears; and of Gladstone's Temple of Peace."

Mme. Marcel Tinayre, the writer of "La Maison du Peche," has received the decoration of the Legion d'Honneur and started all France, by refusing to wear it, as it was the emblem of an order instituted by the first Napoleon, and designed for military men. It is now awarded without distinction of occupation, and within the last few years women as well as men have been honored with it. The book which brought Mme. Tinayre her fame has become almost a classic, yet she has never written anything to equal it since.

Every book of Dickens is now out of copyright with the exception of "Edwin Drood." It is well known that Charles Dickens the younger wrote introductions and many of these have been published with the volumes since his death as these books have fallen out of copyright. The introduction to "Edwin Drood" will be of special interest by comparison with Conyns Carr's solution of the mystery of the "left half told" in the play recently produced in London by Mr. Tree. At the first night of the play the novelist's family occupied one of the boxes.

SAFEGUARD AGAINST SLANG
"The trail of the serpent is over them, all!" cried Miss Adams, with a gesture of mock despair, when one of her Section A girls had been heard to exclaim, "Gee! that's great!" and another had declared that a class entertainment was "corking." "It's easy for us to catch up the slang we hear from our brothers, and I fear it's as easy to write as it is to speak it. I think in self-defense you girls would do well to form two or three diary clubs.

"Say that a half-dozen or more who are intimate friends agree to keep a record of their doings in and out of school and meet once a week to hear the diaries read. Some girls would express themselves gracefully, some would say things awkwardly, but all could use good English by taking pains. Force yourselves to do that, by agreeing that a fine shall be paid for every slang expression written in the diaries or spoken at a club meeting.

"If the club interested you and did you good, you might broaden its scope after a time, and forbid ungrammatical and inelegant expressions; also 'She don't,' and 'I haven't got any,' for example. We say such things from sheer carelessness, I know; but carelessness is a fault that opens the way for worse offenses, and there is always danger that some persons who overhear us will conclude that we talk uncouthly because we know no better.

"Make a meeting of your club an enjoyable event. After the business is over, play games and serve simple refreshments. What to do with the fines for slang? Use the money to buy the refreshments. I suspect," Miss Adams added, with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes, "that in the beginning, and until you become watchful of yourselves, the fines will provide you with regular banquets."—Youth's Companion.

Unlucky.
"She was the most unlucky girl we ever hired. The very first day she broke half a dozen cups and saucers."
"She certainly was unlucky."
"Unlucky! Why, if that girl was to work for the English aristocracy she'd smash all the family plate inside of a week."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Seismic.
"Earthquakes far and earthq' kees near. And many of 'em great. But never a bigger quake—'tis seen—Back in the Quaker State.—Kansas City Times.

Nature seldom hides a man's wealth by the appearance of his parlor and his 16-year-old girl.
Nature seldom hides a man's wealth behind a pretty face.