

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Tuesday, March 20.

Washington, March 20.—In less than 20 minutes the senate voted away \$140,000,000 of the public funds. The sum is carried by the pension appropriation bill, which brief document was made the subject of very little discussion. The railroad rate bill was laid aside for the day and the major portion of the time was devoted to the consideration of the question of the necessity for seacoast fortifications in the Philippines was discussed at length, with the result that all provisions for such fortifications in these islands was eliminated. The consideration of the measure was not concluded. There was also a brief discussion of the power of the conference committee to amend the bill providing for punishment for premature divulgence of government secrets so as to make the bill enforceable to senators and members of the house of representatives, but the subject was left undisturbed for the time.

Washington, March 20.—The house of representatives today did business with a microscope in one hand and the bill making appropriations for the salaries of its officers and employees in the other. The result was that, although 5½ hours were spent in reading the legislative appropriation bill for amendment, less than 25 pages were completed. The spirit of economy in little things was all absorbing. Points of order were made and many of them were fatal to proposed increases in the salaries of officers, janitors, doorkeepers, messengers and laborers.

A point of order which made the engine room of the house cost \$270 instead of \$280 a year, as proposed, caused a constitutional debate of more than an hour on the point as to whether the house could do as it saw fit in the matter of fixing the salaries of its employees. The conclusion seemed to be that it could, and that it seemed its own action by its increasing. However, these rules prohibited increasing a salary without provision of law.

Monday, March 19.

Washington, March 19.—There were three speeches on the railroad rate bill in the senate today. McCreary, Bailey and Hayburn were the orators. McCreary announced his determination to vote for the bill whether amended or not, but said that he would not object to a reasonable provision for the review of the Interstate Commerce commission's findings. Bailey replied to criticisms of his suggestion for a prohibition of the suspension of the commission's orders by courts below the Supreme court. He contended, that Congress had the absolute power to prescribe limitations for the courts which it creates, and cited a large number of decisions in support of his position. Hayburn advocated a review provision, but expressed the opinion that, even if it were omitted, no person could be deprived of his right of admission to the courts.

Washington, March 19.—The house today reached a compromise on the question of abolishing the grade of lieutenant general in the army, providing that it shall not become effective until October 12 next, in order that Generals Corbin and MacArthur may be promoted before their retirement. An important bill, declared to be the first step toward a reorganization of the consular service, was passed. The bill already has been acted upon by the senate. It reclassifies the service and increases the salaries to the extent of \$170,000 a year.

Friday, March 16.

Washington, March 16.—For an instant in the house today there was a lapse in the vigilance of those who have been on guard to prevent legislation which would take away the rank of lieutenant general in the army, and the chances of General Corbin and MacArthur for promotion. Prince, of Illinois whose bill abolishing the grade in question is the regular order of business under call of committees, slipped into the legislative breach. There was an immediate call to arms on both sides, and for three hours the friends of the generals filibustered against the bill.

The net result was that the previous question is ordered on the bill and an amendment is pending, having been offered by Grosvenor, of Ohio, which extends the time of the operation of

Revise Second-Class Rate.

Washington, March 20.—The house committee on postoffice and postroads reported the postoffice appropriation bill to the house today. It provides for an expenditure of \$191,373,848 for the fiscal year 1907, or \$913,221 less than the modified estimates of the Postoffice department. This amount exceeds the appropriation for 1906 by \$10,351,755. Legislation for freeing the mails of heavy matter and for gaining information to reclassify mail is included in the bill. One provision appropriates \$10,000 to pay freight on supplies.

Relinquished Forest Land.

Washington, March 20.—The senate today adopted a resolution presented by Hanebrough, directing the secretary of the interior to furnish on the first Monday in December, 1906, the names of persons and firms or corporations who have relinquished to the United States land in the vicinity of forest reserves. The information requested is to include the names of those who have not selected lands in lieu of those who have relinquished, and the secretary is instructed to provide the means to which they are entitled.

All Eat Chinook Salmon.

Washington, March 20.—United States senators and a few favored members of the house feasted on royal Chinook salmon from the Columbia river today, Senator Fulton acting as host. A big 50-pound fish was liberally served to every senator with his luncheon. So popular has fresh Columbia river salmon become that it is impossible to hold a quorum in the senate when one of these fish is being served.

QUEER WORK FOR SOLDIERS.

Are Called Upon to Kill Rats and Sparrows and Fill Other Roles. The French minister of war has just granted leave to certain of the best shots in the garrisons at Calais and Boulogne to put themselves at the disposal of the local authorities for the purpose of destroying the many seals that frequent the sandbanks between these two towns and are a serious menace to the fishing industry. Before now soldiers have been similarly employed.

A few winters since the province of Luxembourg was so infested with wolves as to give rise to serious alarm among the inhabitants, who, by themselves, were quite unable to cope with the scourge. They therefore consulted the minister of agriculture, who, thinking maybe that the army would be better employed than idle, organized hunting parties composed of soldiers, with a most satisfactory result.

Four years ago a vast horde of rats crossed the German frontier into East Belgium. Their depredations were wholesale and so audacious in many instances did the animals become as to attack and severely wound young children. People were even compelled to abandon their homes. At last the government was applied to for assistance and from the garrisons of the neighboring towns soldiers were dispatched to the assistance of the inhabitants, who were with their aid enabled at length to stem the rodent invasion.

Sparrows were the pest that the French troops were called upon to exterminate some time ago in Algiers. During the maneuvers recently held at Chartres a lion escaped from a traveling menagerie and went off at a break pace through the town. Great was the consternation of the inhabitants, who called upon the soldiers for protection. For answer the latter bade them sit tight and wait, and scoured the streets until the savage beast was captured.

In August, 1900, during the journey of a company of French engineers from the capital of Marseilles, the driver, by some unfortunate accident, fell from the engine on to the line, while the stoker, overcome with emotion, faltered. A couple of soldiers, however, at once stepped into the breach and volunteered to drive the train, which they did with such skill and nerve that it arrived at Dijon three minutes before the advertised time.

In February of 1903 a terrible blizzard swept over Southern Russia. Hundreds of peasants' huts were buried beneath the snowdrifts, while outside Odessa three trains were completely blocked. Word was at once sent to the neighboring barracks and over 4,000 soldiers, armed with shovels, promptly appeared upon the scene. In a very short while the lines were cleared.

A more curious role, however, than any of the foregoing is that of acting as a living object lesson to the anatomy students at Heidelberg University, which, it seems, is expected of any soldier who may chance to be quartered in that German town.—London Tit-Bits.

She Forgot Her Name.

"Never, never, shall I venture into that shop and face that clerk again," said a December bride as, in the company of woman friend, she passed a fashionable stationer's downtown.

"About three weeks before I was married," she explained, "I stopped in there while downtown to order visiting cards, which were to be engraved in my future name. At the appointed time I called to receive the cards and pay for them, but, completely forgetting the change of nomenclature, I asked for those of Miss Allie Smith. "Of course, no such entry could be found, as I had formerly had mine struck off at another house. The clerk searched through all his books, made all possible inquiries, with many apologies for the oversight, which he was totally at a loss to account for. It occupied in all a good fifteen minutes' time. Then in a flash the awful truth dawned on me. I got as red as a bunch of beets, and suffered all the agonies of bridal state fright in advance. But there was nothing to do but own up. In as few words as possible I explained that the name to be looked for was Mrs. Morton Brown. Of course, I got them immediately, but the look on the face of that clerk I shall never forget."—New York Press.

Utilizing Sharks' Teeth.

The natives on some of the Pacific islands, being provided with neither metals nor any stone harder than the coral rocks of which the atolls they inhabit are composed, would seem badly off, indeed, for material of which to make tools or weapons, were it not that their very necessity has bred an invention no less ingenious than curious and effective. This is the use of shark's teeth to give a cutting edge to their wooden knives and swords. The mouth of the shark contains three hundred teeth, arranged in five rows, all closely lying upon each other, except the outer row, and so constructed that as one tooth is broken or lost another takes its place. The teeth are not only pointed and keen-edged, but are finely and regularly serrated, so that the cutting power is greatly increased. Indeed, so great a faculty have these teeth for wounding that the implements and weapons upon which they are used have to be handled with great care. The Kingmill Islanders make many strange articles of shark's teeth.

Wear Fifteenth Century Dress.

In the little town of Munselried, in Bavaria, there exists one of the most curious charitable foundations in the world. One of the burghers, Christopher Wanner, died in 1451, and left his fortune for the establishment of a home for aged poor. He attached, however, the condition that every old man who was taken in should wear his beard, and the same cut of clothes and cap as he himself used to wear. Consequently, after the lapse of 450 years, the ancient pensioners are still to be seen wandering about the streets of Munselried in the costumes of the fifteenth century.

If the husband plans the new home, there need be no further proof that the wife is a worm.

WRECKAGE BURNED

Certain That Thirty-Five Bodies Are Reduced to Ashes.

TRAINS COLLIDE IN COLORADO

Flames Do Work So Thoroughly That Only One Body Has Been Identified.

Pueblo, Colo., March 17.—A wreck accompanied with horrors exceeded only by the Eden disaster, which occurred August 7, 1904, on the line of the same railroad, resulted from a head-on collision of two passenger trains on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad four miles east of Florence, Colorado, at an early hour yesterday morning. The trains were the Utah-California express No. 3, west bound, from Denver, and the Colorado-New Mexico express No. 16, east bound, from Leadville and Grand Junction. They met on a sharp curve and were less than 200 yards apart when the engineers discovered that a collision was imminent.

The disaster was made more horrible by the manner of the death of many of the passengers, variously estimated from 20 to 35. Fire swept over the wreck, engulfing the victims in a cauldron of flame and leaving only charred and blackened bodies to tell the tale of slaughter.

A list of injured given out by officials of the railroad company comprises 32 names. None of the injured are dangerously hurt, and it is believed all will recover quickly. It is reliably reported that but one body is sufficiently intact to make recognition possible, all the others having been incinerated. The identification of the victims who succumbed to the merciless flames is only possible, it is believed, through a comparison of lists of rescued and missing. No accurate estimate of the number of dead was possible by reason of the fact that so many of the bodies were practically destroyed.

One of the pathetic tragedies of the disaster was the wiping out of all but two of the family of Taylor Hewitt, of Lebo, Kan. Father, mother, daughter, grandchild, and the wives of the two sons are missing. The sons, A. E. Hewitt and W. L. Hewitt are among the injured in the hospital here each of them having leg fractures in addition to other injuries.

ACT LIKE CAT AND DOG.

Russia and Japan Ready to Spring at One Another.

St. Petersburg, March 17.—General Grodekoff's order issued yesterday excluding Japanese from Russian Manchuria, and at the same time beginning the distribution of land among the disbanded troops whose families are helped by the government to emigrate to Manchuria, and the fact that many officers are dispatched to Vladivostok daily indicates that the situation in the Far East is considered unsafe. A famous general who recently returned from Manchuria is quoted as saying:

"Despite official and diplomatic declarations at Tokyo, we believe the Japanese consider the war unfinished, and that they will seize occasion to conquer the Amur region from Harbin to Lake Baikal. Their military forces in Manchuria have been strengthened rather than diminished, and officers allow no one to visit headquarters. Even Englishmen are excluded. "The disorganized state of the Russian army in Siberia favors the plans of the Japanese. This is the reason for General Grodekoff's order and General Rennenkampf's excessive severity in crushing the revolution at Chita in Trans-Baikal."

Robbed of Large Sum.

Great Falls, Mont., March 17.—A Tribune special from Kalispell reports the loss of \$5,000 by the O'Brien Lumber company at the hands of highway robbers. John Peterson, a trusted employee, was carrying the money from Kalispell to the works at Timbers, about nine miles distant. Near the mill he was stopped by three men. One held the team, another held a gun at Peterson's head, and the other secured the currency. The robbers were disguised, but are believed to be the men from that locality.

Chinese Fight to the Last.

Rome, March 17.—The Chinese on board the British steamer Epson, who mutinied Tuesday because the officers refused to bury one of their number according to Chinese rites, again assumed a threatening attitude yesterday. They made an unsuccessful attempt to burn the vessel. The authorities sent troops and officers to the assistance of the officers of the vessel, and after a stubborn fight, in which a number of men were injured, the Chinese were finally subdued and placed in irons and the vessel proceeded.

Russia Threatens China.

Peking, March 17.—The Seoul dispatches have sent an official dispatch to the Peking government stating that a large body of Russian troops has penetrated to Wusui and Helunkang, near the northern frontier of Corea. This is a demonstration attempt to burn the Russo-Chinese negotiations, which show little progress. The Peking authorities wired instructions to the Tartar general at Helunkang.

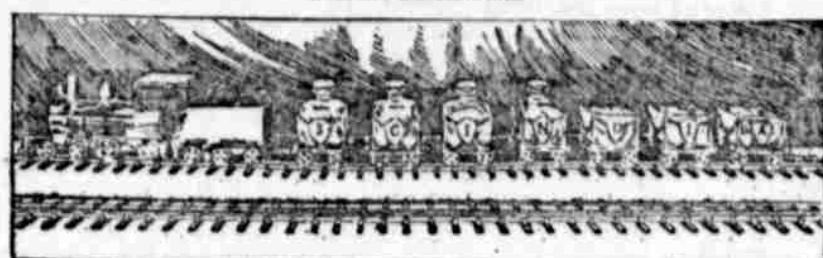
Bond Company a Fraud.

Louisville, Ky., March 17.—Charges of fraud and insolvency were made in a suit filed late yesterday against the American Reserve Bond company, of Chicago, asking for the appointment of a receiver. Millions of dollars belonging to investors all over the United States are involved in the suit, which was filed in the United States district court for the eastern district of Kentucky by Levi Hake and Mary Welch, investors in the company.

INGENIOUS ENTERTAINMENT IN INDIA.



CENTERPIECE THAT CONCEALED THE MAHARAJAH'S DINING TABLE RAILWAY.



THE MODEL TRAIN WITH DECANTER AND CIGAR TRUCKS.

At the Maharajah of Gwalior's banquet to the Prince of Wales the center of the table was occupied by a sort of temple. It was decorated with flowers and electric lamps. Towards the close of the banquet this ornament was raised to the roof by pulleys, revealing a perfect model railway in the center of the table. The engine was an exact copy of the Gwalior light-railway locomotive, and the train, eight feet long, carried decanters, cigars, cigarettes, and matches. The Maharajah started the train by completing an electric circuit, and any guest could stop the train by lifting the decanter. By an ingenious system of compensating bogies the train could turn a four-foot curve. Each truck bore one of the letters of the Maharajah's name, Scindia.

ALFONSO AND HIS BRIDE.

The King of Spain to Be Married to a British Maiden.

While the people of the United States have been taking a deep interest in the courtship and marriage of Alice Roosevelt, daughter of our chief magistrate, to Representative Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, the nations of Europe, more especially Spain and Great Britain, have been watching a royal courtship which is soon to result in an international marriage.

After casting his eyes over Europe and disappointing several match-making mamas of royal families, the young King of Spain has finally fallen as deeply in love as wearers of crowns ever do. His love is Princess Ena

for the passengers. Each car will contain ten passengers, and be of the lightest possible construction.

The line will run from the Grindewald upper glacier, at about 4,000 feet altitude, up to the Engle station in one lift, a distance of 1,300 feet. This station is of massive masonry and affords an anchorage for the cable. The gradient of the cable for this part of the line is about 80 per cent. This station affords access to a series of fine views, and there is a path along the Engle to the departure station of the second section of the line, which extends to a point at an altitude of 7,761 feet, or a lift of 2,300 feet. The motive power is to be electricity at high tension and part of the installation is already com-



KING ALFONSO OF SPAIN AND HIS BRIDE-ELECT.

of Hattenberg, niece of King Edward of Great Britain.

Alfonso XIII. will be 20 years old next May. He was born six months after the death of his father. With his first breath he was a King, but his mother ruled in his name till he was 17. Since then he has been a really, truly King.

Princess Ena's full name is Victoria Eugenia Julia Ena. She is 19 years of age and is the daughter of Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, Beatrice. Beatrice was 28 years of age when she married and her aged mother had hoped to keep her as a constant companion. When she married Henry of Hattenberg her husband took up his residence in England and lived on an income provided by the British government. Their children have been reared as Britishers. Prince Henry died a victim to the Aschanti expedition in Africa in 1896. The Princess Beatrice, or Catty, is a plump and healthy matron in middle life.

In the picture, which we present, the King of Spain and his future bride are shown side by side, while the mother of the bride-elect stands in the background.

ELECTRIC AERIAL RAILWAY.

A New Departure in Plan to Descend the Wetterhorn.

There is apparently no more attractive field for engineering than the mountains of Switzerland, and the greatest skill and ingenuity have been exercised in the various railways designed to carry tourists to the summits. Recently, says Harper's Weekly, there has been an entirely new departure from existing practice in a plan proposed for ascending the northwestern side of the Wetterhorn, which rises precipitously to an altitude of 7,760 feet above the sea level. The new scheme consists of a combination of the fundamental principles of the ordinary aerial cableway, now so much used in constructive engineering for the transport of materials, and of the elevated mono-railway, best exemplified in the line between Harmer and Elberfeld, in Germany. In the latter a car is suspended from a single rail supported by a system of girders, while in the new Swiss railway, instead of a rail, a stout steel cable will be stretched from station to station, and from this will be suspended by its running gear a car or cage

pleted. The summit of the Wetterhorn is 12,150 feet above sea level, and from the present studies there is apparently no reason why access to it should not be gained by a series of such railways as the two sections already described. Only one before has the mono-rail system been used on a mountain railway, on Vevair in 1880, and this method was superseded when the line was reconstructed.

MYTH OF ANCIENT RUINS.

Scientist Shatters Romance Spread by "King Solomon's Mines."

The glamour of mythical romance, which has so long surrounded the famous ruins of Zimbabwe, Rhodesia, were recently dispelled by a lecture by Dr. Melver, before the research department of the Royal Geographical Society in London. It has always been supposed that the ruins dated back to one of the earliest civilizations, and were probably of Semitic origin. Rider Haggard's romance of "King Solomon's Mines" spread their fame far and wide. Dr. Melver, however, who was commissioned by the British association to examine the ruins, now reports that there are no grounds for the belief that they were of any great antiquity.

Excavations have proved that the ruins belonged to one period only in which medieval and post-medieval buildings were constructed by a people whose implements and ornaments were found there; that is the negro race, who were akin to the Kafirs. Frederick Stone, the explorer, agreed that the district had never been occupied by a civilized race, and described the primitive methods of dealing with gold-bearing quartz, which he believed had been carried on until the Zulu invasion.

Dr. Melver states that he had discovered two pieces of flowered blue and white Nankin china, which were certainly not earlier than the sixteenth century. Several members dissented from the lecturer's views.—Washington Post.

It has been decided by the chaplains that the right place for the napkin is across the lap. But how about the men who are so fat they have no lap? Shouldn't there be a special dispensation for them?

It will be noticed in every home in which there is a cozy corner that the dog, in seeking comfortable places to sleep, never enters one of them.

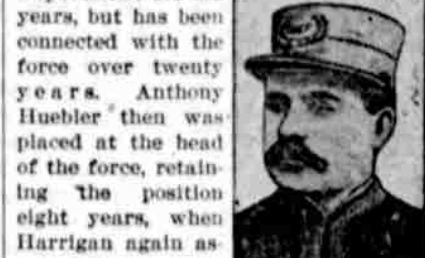


Rev. George H. Simmons, who committed suicide in his home, at Peoria, Ill., as the result of charges of a scandalous nature, had been pastor of the First Baptist Church, and also was at the head of two banking institutions. Mr. Simmons studied in Georgetown University, and had held pastoral charges in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana before coming to Peoria. He was born in 1804 at Shepherdville, Ky., and lived on a farm until he had reached the age of 13. Then he went to Louisville, and with the aid of friends received primary instruction in the public schools. Prior to the disclosures that led to his death he had borne an excellent reputation.



Chief Matthew Kiely, who has been suspended on charges of "graft," had been at the head of the St. Louis Police Department for six years, but has been connected with the force over twenty years. Anthony Huebner then was placed at the head of the force, retaining the position eight years, when Harrigan again assumed command. One of his first acts was to make Kiely captain and to place him in charge of the big central district. While Governor Folk was prosecuting attorney friction arose between him and Kiely, the reason, as alleged, being that Kiely had refused to place the police department under the orders of Mr. Folk.

Frederick VIII, the new king of Denmark, is well liked by the people. On the 3d of June next he will be 6 years old. He is the father of eight children, one of whom, his second son, is King Hakan of Norway. Frederick's brother is King of Greece. One of his sisters is Queen of England; another is the mother of the Czar of Russia. He also is



By the will of the late William B. Skidmore Morrilltown, N. J., is presented with a \$20,000 library.

Brigadier General William Harding Carter, who has assumed his new duties as commander of the Department of the Lakes, U. S. A., is a veteran of the regular army and a noted writer on military topics. For more than two years he has been stationed in the Philippines. He has just come from Japan, where he spent the greater part of a six weeks' leave of absence gathering data on the Japanese cavalry for a new edition of his book, "Horses, Saddles and Bridles," which is a text for the horse arm of the service. General Carter is 54 years old.



John Sebastian, who has been made passenger traffic manager of the Frisco and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad systems, has been with the Rock Island road for twenty-six years. He has been passenger traffic manager of the Rock Island since January, 1903, and his two new appointments place him in charge of the passenger business of railroad than any other man. The systems over which he is now in charge comprise an aggregate mileage of more than 16,000 miles of railroad. Mr. Sebastian has been in the railway service since 1869. His birthplace is Newport, Ky., where he was born Jan. 28, 1840, and his home is in Chicago.

Every line of Mrs. and Mr. Williamson's novel, "My Friend the Chauffeur," was written out of doors at their delightful home in the south of France.

Emil Zerkowits has written a book dealing with American commerce from the Hungarian point of view. He traveled 16,000 miles collecting data.

The late Thomas J. Emery, the Cincinnati multimillionaire, who died recently in Cairo, Egypt, was on his tenth trip to Africa and his fifth trip to Europe.

Lord Hawke made one of four centuries at cricket obtained in a match in 1693 in Yorkshire against Warwickshire, the score being 887. He was one of the scoring quartet which included Peel, Wainwright and Jackson.

Though more populous than this country, the Russian empire has only 900 newspapers. The number in this country is 22,000.

A commercial agent of the Japanese government is in California to make an experiment in shipping California oranges to Japan.