

CASH FOR RIVERS

Chairman Burton Sure Appropriation Bill Will Pass.

ITS FATE RESTS WITH SENATE

Only Danger is that Load of Amendments May Sink It in the Upper House.

Washington, Feb. 23. — Chairman Burton, of the rivers and harbors committee, expressed the belief today that his bill, consideration of which was begun in the house yesterday, will pass both houses and become law before March 4.

There has been a growing fear that this bill would be sidetracked, not only because of the demands of party leaders for economy, but because of the unprecedented late date in bringing it up for consideration. Only eight days remain to pass it through both houses and through conference, less time than was ever before given any river and harbor bill.

Burton, however, says the shortage of time is a strong factor in favor of the passage of the bill. It will induce the senate to make only slight amendments, for fear of losing what is proposed by the house. He says that unless the senate loads the bill down with large amendments, it will pass without material objection, carrying practically the appropriations agreed to by the house committee.

HOPE TO BANKRUPT JAPAN

Russians Rely on Long Purse for Escape from Defeat.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23. — Although the party which is advocating peace as the only egress from the present situation continues to gain strength, nothing has actually been decided, and no move has yet been made. It is officially maintained that Russia's attitude is unchanged. At the foreign office not the slightest encouragement is given to the peace talk. On the contrary, it is affirmed as strongly as ever that Japan must propose terms, while at the same time it is admitted that it is inconceivable that Japan can offer conditions acceptable to Russia.

The idea of a complete Russian victory is not harbored, but it is insisted that Russia is not beaten, and will not be beaten until General Kuropatkin is decisively worsted by General Oyama and the late of Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron is determined. The main consideration entering into the calculations of the uncompromising advocates of a prosecution of the war is that Japan's financial resources must become exhausted long before Russia's.

HALF THE BODIES ARE FOUND

Only Three Were Rescued Alive, and They Soon Died.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23. — At 8 o'clock this evening 75 blackened and disfigured bodies had been recovered from the Virginia mine in which the awful explosion occurred on Monday afternoon, entombing more than 150 miners.

The rescuers are still heroically at work in the stone, and as they advance the bodies further in the mine are found to be worse burned and mutilated than those nearer the exterior. No hope is now held out that any are alive. Three men were found yesterday whose hearts were still beating, but they expired immediately.

The Birmingham district has come promptly forward in relieving the destitute families of the victims, and mass meetings have been held for that purpose. Hundreds of dollars have been subscribed, and the Birmingham Commercial club has raised more than \$3,000. Alabama District No. 20, United Mineworkers of America, today voted \$5,000 to be distributed among the families.

Russian Raiders Violate Neutrality

Tientsin, Feb. 23. — About 300 Russian raiders slightly damaged the railway between Haicheng and Tatsienkiao on Monday night and again disregarded the neutrality of the territory west of the Liao river. The presence of Chinese soldiers was not reported. It is evident that the villagers kept the Russians well informed as to the disposition of the Japanese troops. It was expected that the raiders would repeat the attempt to destroy the Japanese stores at Niuchiatun, but they retired without an engagement.

Oil Refinery for Colorado.

Denver, Feb. 23. — Representative Clifton H. Wilder's bill appropriating \$125,000 for the establishment of a state oil refinery was favorably reported to the house by the finance committee today. The bill also contains provisions to regulate the price of oil. Independent oil producers who are supporting the measure have offered to lease and operate the refinery when constructed, and to advance the money for its construction at low rates.

Kansas After the Railroads.

Topeka, Feb. 23. — The Kansas senate tonight passed a bill for the regulation of railroads. It provides that a state railroad board shall make changes in freight rates upon due complaint being made. A section giving the board power to change rates of its own initiative was included in the bill as it passed the house.

DOCKS WIPED OUT.

New Orleans Suffers a Fire Loss of Five Million Dollars.

New Orleans, Feb. 27. — Fire, involving millions of dollars' loss in property and that strikes a serious blow temporarily at the immense export trade of New Orleans, swept the river front to night and wiped out the vast freight terminals of the Illinois Central, known as the Stuyvesant docks.

Nearly a dozen squares of modern wharves and freight sheds, two magnificent grain elevators, hundreds of loaded cars and vast quantities of freight, including 20,000 bales of cotton, were destroyed, together with a large number of small residences.

The ocean-going shipping seems to have escaped serious damage. A number of firemen and employees of the docks were injured. Actual estimates of the losses are impossible to obtain tonight, though they may exceed \$5,000,000.

The Stuyvesant docks extend from Louisiana avenue almost to Napoleon avenue, a distance of 12 squares. The wharves between these two points were covered with miles of trackage, and a steel and iron shed ran the whole distance.

The grain elevators were of the most modern construction, the upper one having a capacity of 1,000,000 bushels. Thousands of bales of cotton, several hundred thousand packages of sugar, great quantities of cotton seed oil and oil cakes, lumber and every conceivable variety of freight, filled the warehouses and sheds. Practically all the export business handled by the Illinois Central railway was put aboard ships at these docks.

BUY WAGON-ROAD LANDS.

Hermann's Bill Relating to Klamath Reservation Passes House.

Washington, Feb. 27. — The house today passed Representative Hermann's bill directing the secretary of the interior to ascertain the value of lands heretofore conveyed by the United States to Oregon as a part of a grant to aid the Eugene City military road and embraced in the Klamath Indian reservation. These lands were awarded to the California & Oregon land company, by the supreme court.

The secretary is also directed to ascertain what part of these lands have been allotted to Indians, the value of improvements, and the price at which the California & Oregon land company will sell to the United States or on what terms it will arrange for other lands in the Klamath reservation.

Mr. Hermann was not present in the house when his bill was called up and passed.

NO CAUSE TO FIRE.

North Sea Investigation Commission Decides Against Russia.

Paris, Feb. 27. — The International commission of inquiry into the attack of the Russian second Pacific squadron upon the Hull fishing fleet on the night of October 21, 1904, has found that there were no hostile torpedo boats among the fishing boats and that Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified in firing on the trawlers. This is the main point of the findings, which sustain the British contentions throughout, though the blow to Russia is softened by the statement that Admiral Rojestvensky was justified in taking all precautions against attack and acted according to his belief by declaring that his military valor and humanity are not questioned.

The decision says that delay of the Russian transport Kamchatka, following the breaking down of her machinery, was perhaps the cause of the incident. The commander of the Kamchatka signaled to Admiral Rojestvensky during the evening that he had been attacked by torpedo boats. The admiral, therefore, had reason to believe that he was attacked and gave orders for strict vigilance against the possible approach of torpedo boats. The majority of the commission considers that Admiral Rojestvensky's orders were not excessive in time of war, particularly under the circumstances, and that he had every reason to consider the situation very alarming.

Witte Again Takes the Lead.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27. — According to an apparently well grounded report, Minister of Finance Kokovsov will soon leave the emperor's cabinet and be succeeded by M. Roucaloff, a former assistant to President of the Council Witte, and a strong supporter of that statesman. There are various reports concerning the proceedings of the council of ministers last night, but in all of them are indications that M. Witte played the most prominent part, as he did at the previous meeting.

Great Ice-Gorge Breaking.

Cincinnati, Feb. 27. — The ice gorges in the Ohio river, in this vicinity, which were the heaviest known for many years, began to give way during the night, several breaks occurring at various points. Although the river rose several feet during the same time, the ice was so heavy that it soon caught again, forming new gorges. Property damage estimated at more than \$75,000 was caused by these early movements of the ice, but no loss of life.

Irrigate the Klamath Basin.

Klamath Falls, Feb. 27. — The United States irrigation committee met here today and took steps to incorporate the Klamath Basin Water Users' association, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000. This will probably be increased to \$3,000,000 in the near future.

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