

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Saturday, May 19.

Washington, May 19.—The house arose today in its wrath and put to eternal sleep a measure that it had previously passed, making it a penitentiary offense for any official or employee of the government, including senators and congressmen, to make public any secret information that would have an effect upon the market value of any American products. The bill, originally passed the house some weeks ago without discussion, and was intended to remedy a defect in the law as exposed by the recent cotton scandal in the department of agriculture. It was amended by the senate, and the report of the conference brought the matter to the attention of the house today.

After a heated debate in which the measure was attacked as vicious legislation by McCall of Massachusetts, Grosvenor, of Ohio, and Crumpacker, of Indiana, Republicans, and defended by Burleson, Democrat, of Texas, its author, and Chairman Jenkins, of the judiciary committee, the house, by a record vote of 107 to 66, tabled the bill, having refused in the first instance to agree to the report of the conference.

Friday, May 18.

Washington, May 18.—After 70 days of almost continuous deliberation the senate today at 4:53 p. m. passed the railroad rate bill by the practically unanimous vote of 71 to 3. The three negative votes were cast by Foraker, Republican, of Ohio, and Morgan and Pettus, Democrats, of Alabama. There was a somewhat larger attendance of senators than usual, but the attendance in the galleries was by no means abnormal, and there was no manifestation of any kind when the result was announced. There was, however, an almost general sigh of relief among the senators.

Washington, May 18.—Reminiscent of the stressful days of the 47th congress were the scenes in and about the house today. Hardly had the journal been approved when the Democrats, under the leadership of Williams, of Mississippi, began the first real filibuster in a number of years, their object being to defeat the bill paying to the estate of Samuel Lee, of South Carolina, \$10,482 for allowances made by reason of the election of Lee, a negro contestant for a seat in the 47th congress.

This bill has been reported favorably by nine congresses — six times by Republicans and three times by Democrats.

After spending almost the entire day on the question the bill was passed.

Thursday, May 17.

Washington, May 17.—With the exception of Bailey's digression, the entire day was devoted by the senate to a review of the amendments made in committee of the whole and covered somewhat more than half of the measure. There was a prospect of concluding the reading until the section granting to the Interstate Commerce commission power to fix rates was reached and the question of the constitutionality of that provision was raised. The attack was made on the clause giving to the committee discretion in the matter of preserving rates, and a long debate ensued. The question was still under discussion when the day came to a close.

Washington, May 17.—After two weeks' debate the house today passed the naval appropriation bill, carrying \$99,746,000. The amendment providing that the secretary of the navy could go into the open market and purchase chains, anchors and cordage, should it be demonstrated that they could be had cheaper in free markets than they could be made by the government, was defeated today by a vote of 188 to 123.

By the action of the house on a second amendment, upon which a separate vote was demanded, a 4 per cent differential will be allowed bidders from the Pacific Coast on ships constructed there. The vote was very close, three Republicans changing from no to yes, Haughen of Iowa, Thomas and Longworth.

Wednesday, May 16.

Washington, May 16.—The consideration of the rate bill in committee of the whole was concluded by the senate today, and the measure was then reported to the senate, where there will be opportunity to review and alter all

the amendments heretofore made. Practically the entire day was devoted to consideration of the anti-pass amendment, which was adopted after making so many exceptions as to arouse laughter every time the provision was read. The work of the senate after the bill was reported was confined to the partial consideration of the pipe line provision, which was so amended as to strike out the Morgan proviso extending its operation to other countries where the United States had jurisdiction.

Washington, May 16.—The naval appropriation bill, carrying nearly \$100,000,000, was completed today in the house after one of the busiest days of the present congress. The feature of the day's debate grew out of the attempt to defeat the appropriation for the largest battleship of its class in the world and the tenor of the speeches for the big ship was that the American republic must be abreast of the nations of the world in the strength of her navy. The opponents talked for peace, disarmament and arbitration, and insisted that there was no national need for such a large navy. The amendment introduced by Burton, of Ohio, to strike out the appropriation for a rival to the British Dreadnaught was defeated, as was the amendment leaving the construction of the battleship to the discretion of the secretary of the navy after the second Hague conference. A final vote on the bill will be taken tomorrow.

Tuesday, May 15.

Washington, May 15.—With the exception of the anti-pass amendment, the senate concluded its discussion of the railroad rate bill in committee of the whole and, as soon as that provision shall be disposed of, will take it up in the senate. The general expectation is that the pass question will be disposed of early tomorrow, and the general hope is that the bill may be passed before the close of tomorrow's session. The greater part of the day was spent in discussing the eighth section of the bill, relating to the personnel of the Interstate Commerce commission, resulting in the elimination of the entire section and the restoration of the present law, which provides for five commissioners at salaries of \$7,500.

Washington, May 15.—The House by a decided vote today reaffirmed its faith in the Navy department, defeating an amendment of Tawney, chairman of the appropriations committee, to limit the expenditures on a ship to 10 per cent of the cost, a vote of confidence coming after two hours' hot debate. Having reached the section of the naval bill dealing with increase in the Navy and, realizing that considerable debate must ensue, the house adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Tawney was emphatic in declaring that it was both bad policy and bad administration to give to the Navy department the right of spending \$11,000,000 for repairs of vessels without so much as being compelled to give an account to any one for the money expended.

Monday, May 14.

Washington, May 14.—The session of the senate today passed without an exciting incident and without the adoption of a single amendment to the railroad rate bill, notwithstanding that measure was under consideration practically all the time from the hour of convening, 11 o'clock, until adjournment at 5:15 p. m. The most characteristic feature of the day was the rejection of amendments. This was accomplished either by direct vote or by the process of laying on the table and one followed another in rapid succession.

Among the provisions thus adversely disposed of were several intended to fix the liability of railroad companies for injury to employees. The presentation of provisions intended to accomplish this purpose had the effect of bringing out a practically authoritative statement that the committee on interstate commerce will report the independent house bill on that subject which is now pending before it.

Washington, May 14.—The house had under consideration today bills relating to the government of the District of Columbia. It completed the bills reorganizing the Washington public school system, then adjourned in the absence of a quorum, postponing action on the bills under consideration. These bills will be taken up tomorrow.

Jimenez Plans Revolution.

Washington, May 15.—Reports have reached the State department of the organization of another revolutionary movement directed against the government of President Caceres, of Santo Domingo. It is understood that the island of Porto Rico is the base of operations, and it is supposed that ex-President Morales and Jimenez are the leaders of the movement. Instructions have been sent to the insular governor of Porto Rico to take steps to carry out the neutrality laws, which would prevent departure of hostile expedition.

California Needs Another Judge.

Washington, May 15.—The members of the California delegation in congress today met in conference with Secretary Metcalf and discussed the question of an additional circuit judge for California, as well as the urgent need of liberal appropriations both for the construction of new federal buildings in San Francisco and the proper repairing of others. Insurance litigation will, it is believed, make an additional judge imperative.

Will Double Alaska Cables.

Washington, May 15.—Orders have been issued by General Allen, the chief signal officer of the army, for the installation of the duplex system on the Alaska cables. The commercial business of the cables has become so heavy that even by working night and day the operators are not able to handle all the dispatches. With the new system the capacity of the cables will be increased about 75 per cent. The supreme court of the United States has denied the petition for a rehearing in the Chicago traction cases.

Inquiry Into Coal Monopoly.

Philadelphia, May 15.—The Interstate Commerce Commission will tomorrow resume its inquiry into the alleged close relations between railroads and big coal corporations. Nearly the entire time, it is expected, will be devoted to efforts to prove the ownership of stock in coal companies by officials of the Pennsylvania railroad and discrimination in car distribution. The Baltimore and Ohio will also be put under microscopic examination.

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