

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Saturday, May 26.
 Washington, May 26.—During the course of a listless day's legislation on the diplomatic and consular bill in the house today, Champ Clark, of Missouri, stated that he had heard whisperings that the Chinese exclusion law was to be modified to affect all classes of Chinese, with the exception of coolie labor. He gave notice that, if there was any such intention on the part of the majority, he would fight such a change to the last ditch; that he had been somewhat instrumental in putting the Chinese exclusion law on the statute books, and that for one he would not agree to its modification.

Under general debate, the house having met at 11 o'clock for further consideration of the diplomatic bill, speeches were made by a number of members and this subject took a wide range, from pensioning the Missouri militia to the rate bill.

Friday, May 25.
 Washington, May 25.—The senate today passed the agricultural appropriation bill, carrying an appropriation of \$7,800,000, and, without a word of debate or an objection from any source, added to it as an amendment the bill providing for an inspection of fresh meats intended for domestic consumption.

A number of other bills were passed. The sea level Panama canal bill was made the unfinished business.

The message of the house, declining to accept the senate amendments to the railroad rate bill was received, but the senate conferees were not named. The senate adjourned until Monday.

Washington, May 25.—In the house of representatives today the question of veracity was raised between Cooper, of Wisconsin, and Hepburn, of Iowa, over a conversation in which the latter is alleged to have participated with a member of the senate and in which, Cooper asserted, the member of the house and the senator referred to agreed that the so-called express company amendment to the railroad rate bill should not remain in the bill.

The house was turbulent during the consideration of the rule sending the rate bill to conference, the fear of many members being that the rule, which disagreed to the senate amendments on bloc, might have an influence on the conferees and give them an opportunity, if they so desired, to vote out the express company amendment, the amendment relating to pipe lines and the sleeping-car amendment.

Thursday, May 24.
 Washington, May 24.—The senate entered today upon the consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill. Hale criticized the provision permitting the secretary of agriculture to extend to 30 days the fortnight's leave now allowed to employes outside the city of Washington, expressing the opinion that the practice is growing rapidly, and that it will soon extend to all the postoffices of the country if not checked. He spoke of the general demand for government employment, saying that such employes became "a hungry, persistent band of mendicants," and that congress is dragooned, impertuned and browbeaten by the demands of this organized band of subordinates. Hale referred to the possibility of pensioning government employes.

The free alcohol bill was passed by the senate practically as it came from the house.

Washington, May 24.—Speaker Cannon, with the memory of yesterday's proceedings in his mind, took a new tack today when the house of representatives met, by sending word to Curtis, of Kansas, to raise the point of "no quorum" when a division was demanded by Williams, of Mississippi, on the vote to resume consideration of the diplomatic and consular bill. Mr. Curtis made the point of "no quorum," taking the wind out of Williams' sails, the "call of the house" proceeding under Republican demand instead of on the demand of the leader of the minority. A quorum was present, the vote being, Ayes 222, noes 21, present 19.

Wednesday, May 23.
 Washington, May 23.—In addition to passing a half dozen bills to which no objection was made, the senate devoted its entire session today to the immigration bill, which was passed just before the hour of adjournment. The major portion of the discussion was devoted to the provision for supplying information concerning the different sections of the country to newly arrived immigrants.

The bill consists of a series of amendments to the existing law, all of them intended to permit stricter regulations for keeping out the defective classes of aliens. The head tax is increased from \$2 to \$5.

An amendment requiring an educational test for immigrants and also requiring that no immigrant carrying less than \$25 should be admitted was presented by Simmons, who spoke in support of it. Lodge offered a substitute confining the test to an educational requirement and providing that no alien more than 16 years of age who cannot read in some language shall be admitted except members of the families of male adults now residing in the United States. Simmons accepted the substitute and it was adopted.

Tuesday, May 22.
 Washington, May 22.—The senate today devoted the greater part of the session to consideration of the immigration bill, but before it was taken up McCumber made a personal statement, contradicting an article printed in the New York Tribune that the railroad rate bill had been so amended at his instance as to render it ineffective.

Previous to that time also the senate adopted a resolution directing the committee on privileges and elections to consider the course to be pursued in the case of Burton.

Speeches on the immigration bill were made by Dillingham, McCreary, Bacon, Scott, Patterson and others. The bill was still under consideration when the senate adjourned.

Washington, May 22.—For an hour or more today the house of representatives could not decide whether to go into committee of the whole on the diplomatic and consular bill, or to follow the lead of Gardner of Massachusetts to take up consideration of the immigration bill.

Assisted by Williams, the minority leader, Gardner led a mild filibuster against taking up the diplomatic bill, and endeavored to delay matters by raising a number of parliamentary points. The Republicans, however, had a quorum present, and eventually the diplomatic bill was taken up and general debate began and continued till 5 o'clock.

The senate bill authorizing the construction of a dam across the Pend d'Oreille river in the state of Washington was passed.

Monday, May 21.
 Washington, May 21.—The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was passed by the senate today within three hours from its reading. It carries appropriations aggregating \$29,815,259, an increase of \$59,345 over the amount reported to the senate. A number of unimportant measures were passed and at 3:30 o'clock consideration was given to pension bills.

Washington, May 21.—Decided opposition developed today in the house of representatives against the passage of the bill to extend the time for the completion of the Alaskan Central railway.

Williams, of Mississippi, insisted that the bill was obnoxious because it exempted the property from license tax and tax on its railway during the period of construction and for five years thereafter. He believed that every individual as well as every corporation should pay his proportionate share of the tax burden.

Should Continue Filibuster.
 Washington, May 21.—Democratic members of the house of representatives today were signing an indorsement of an action of Williams, the minority leader, in filibustering in the house for the purpose of hurrying action on the statehood bill. The indorsement was drawn by Henry, of Texas, and was circulated by Beall, of that state. It asks Williams to continue to demand roll calls on every motion which can be made in the passage of bills or the adoption of resolutions and raise the question of no quorum when possible.

Do Clerks Vote for Members?
 Washington, May 21.—Speaker Cannon instanced his confidence in the reading clerks of the house yesterday, Williams, of Mississippi, during the filibuster against the bill to pay Samuel Lee \$10,000 for expenses incurred during his contest for a seat in the Forty-seventh congress, stated that he had heard the name of a member called and that the clerk had recorded him as voting when as a matter of fact the member was not in the city.

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Washington, May 23.—When the house met today an unusual scene occurred. Williams, the minority leader, demanded the ayes and noes on a motion of Adams, of Pennsylvania, to go into committee of the whole for the further consideration of the diplomatic and consular bill. This was refused, the speaker holding that one-fifth of the members present had not risen to demand the ayes and noes.

"I demand that the other side be taken," called out Williams.

The speaker refused to take the negative on a rising vote, stating that but a short time before it had been demonstrated that a quorum was present, 195.

Then Williams thundered out a protest against the speaker's ruling.

An attempt to secure order was in vain, and leaving Williams standing, the speaker left the desk, and Curtis, of Kansas, took his place, as chairman of the committee of the whole, and in a general debate the bill was discussed.

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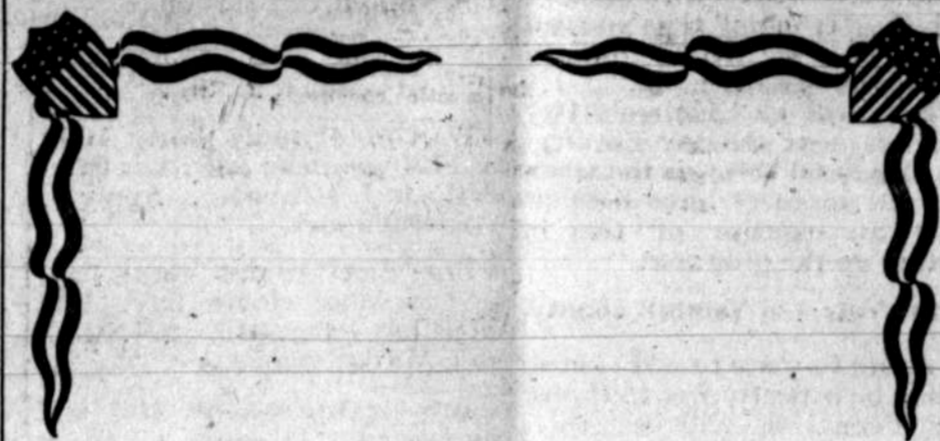
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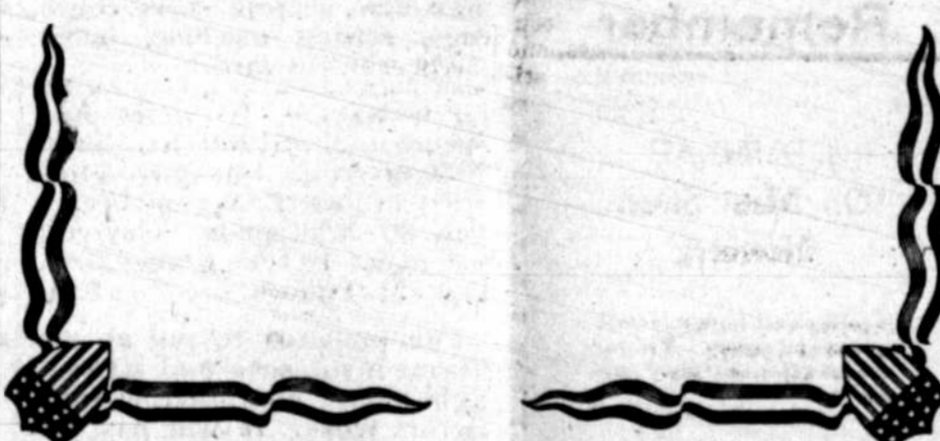
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