

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Thursday, December 12.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The practice of certain of the executive departments of sending drafts of bills to the senate for passage, which bills have been immediately referred directly to committees, was discussed in the senate today. Carter, of Montana, presented a prepared list of instances where the heads of executive departments had addressed the senate requesting the passage of certain bills. He said that Teller, of Colorado, had himself sent bills to the senate for passage when he was secretary of the interior.

Aldrich said that, no matter how old the practice, it should be stopped; that the executive departments had no right to seek legislation in such direct manner.

After speeches by a number of other senators a communication from the secretary of the interior was referred to the committee on rules with a request to report promptly what action should be taken to stop the practice.

A report was requested from the secretary regarding clearing house certificates, Panama bonds, certificates of indebtedness and other matters.

A bill giving the secretary of the navy authority to purchase three steam colliers was introduced yesterday by Senator Lodge. It provides that they shall be of American register.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Speaker Cannon, during an eight-minute session of the house today, announced the appointment of the following committees:

On rules.—The speaker, Daisell, Rep., Pennsylvania; Sherman, Rep., New York; John Sharp Williams, Dem., Mississippi; Dearmond, Dem., Missouri.

On mileage.—Brumm, Rep., Pennsylvania; Kennedy, Rep., Louisiana; A. D. James, Rep., Kentucky; Lewis, Dem., Georgia; Denver, Dem., Ohio.

Bills exempting all lumber and coal from import duty were introduced in the house today by Mr. Booker, of Missouri.

Wednesday, December 11.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Passionate oratory marked the proceedings of the senate today. Senator Jefferson Davis, of Arkansas, who when elected declared that he would attack the trusts immediately after taking his seat, fulfilled his promise, although he was a few days late in doing so. The speech was filled with sensational declarations and was given with that vigor for which the Arkansas senator is famous in his own state. Quaint phrasing, pointed denunciations and evidences of intense emotion characterized his remarks. He was given a careful hearing by senators and the galleries were well filled throughout the time he held the floor. Beginning shortly before 1 o'clock, he spoke for a little more than an hour. At the close of the speech the senate went into executive session and at 12:10 adjourned.

The house was not in session today. After declaring that his bill, rigorously enforced, would kill the trusts, with dramatic effect Mr. Davis challenged any senator to step forward and contest the issue with him.

Speaking of the great expense of the government, Mr. Davis said: "Our president, and I speak of him in the most respectful terms, besides his salary of \$50,000 a year, and I say that is not excessive, is paid by this congress \$25,000 a year for traveling expenses, and approximately \$113,000 annually for living expenses. Ah, Mr. President! This is enormous! This is unreasonable! The president of the United States has five children, I believe. I believe they should live in accordance with the dignity of the president's position—the highest place on earth—but, Mr. President, I have Roosevelt 'skinned a city block' in the matter of family, and it does not take \$113,000 for my living expenses. No, sir! The greatest president that ever lived on this earth, that was ever inaugurated in this capital, in my judgment, was 'Old Hickory' Jackson, who rode his horse to the White house, dressed in a suit of blue jeans."

The senator denounced stock gambling, and said he would do away with gambling in cotton, grain and the necessities of life.

Tuesday, December 10.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Senator Aldrich today informed the senate that the committee on finance would within a very short time bring in a resolution providing for an inquiry into the recent bond issues of the government and that

Federal Courts and State Law. Washington, Dec. 11.—So to amend the interstate commerce law as to enable and require the Federal courts to recognize and apply the provisions of state statutes for the trial of interstate violations is the object of a bill introduced by Representative Sabath, of Illinois. The purpose is to obviate the long delays in the conduct of interstate commerce by lack, or declared lack, of jurisdiction in the Federal courts.

The punishment provided is a fine of from \$1,000 to \$5,000, or imprisonment of from three months to five years.

Propose Mail Subsidy.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Ship subsidy legislation is again to be attempted this winter. Not the old subsidy plan advocated by the late Senator Hanna, but a much modified bill, restricted in its operations, and more popularly known as a postal subsidy act. At the last congress each house of congress went on record as favoring a mail subsidy bill, but the bill was eventually killed by a Democratic filibuster in the senate.

Analyze More Bullets.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The report of the senate committee on military affairs as to its finding in the Brownsville, Texas, investigation will be delayed until more of the bullets found at the scene of the riot can be analyzed. Analysis has shown a quantity of antimony in the bullets submitted, while War department officers testified that the army bullets in use by the troops were supposed to contain no antimony whatever.

it would provide for an investigation into all matters contained in the resolution offered by senators concerning the financial stringency and the effort of the government to relieve the situation.

With this assurance Culberson, of Texas, and Clay, of Georgia, agreed to permit their resolution to go to the committee for its consideration. Tillman allowed his resolution on the same subject to lie on the table until he secures data he desires to present to the senate.

Senator Culberson today introduced a bill to prohibit corporations from making election contributions or to make contributions in connection with elections.

Senator Fulton today introduced bills appropriating \$100,000 for public buildings at La Grande, Pendleton, Oregon City, Albany and Roseburg and \$2,500,000 at Portland.

Monday, December 9.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The senate was in session a little more than one hour today, and did little business beyond the introduction of bills. The resolutions of Clay and Culberson, calling upon the secretary of the treasury for information concerning the recent bond issues and deposit of public money in national banks came up, but in the absence of Aldrich their consideration was postponed until another day.

Tillman introduced a resolution directing the committee on finance to investigate the recent proceedings of the secretary of the treasury in connection with the financial crisis, and also to make inquiry concerning the clearing house certificates. The resolution was presented in two series, the first dealing with the operations of the Treasury department and the second with clearing house certificates, each being divided into three subdivisions.

Washington, Dec. 9.—In the house today the bills introduced included the following:

By Hall, of South Dakota—Removing the duty from imports of lumber, whether dressed or rough.

By Macourey, Missouri—Making it a felony punishable by imprisonment of from two to five years, or by a fine, to publish or circulate any false or misleading advertisement; retiring on pay roll veterans of the Civil war who have attained the age of 70.

By Fulton, of Oklahoma—Prohibiting the mailing of any statement of margin or other stock watering transaction, and making it a felony under the interstate commerce law to utilize the telegraph for that purpose; directing the secretary of the interior at once to place on the pension roll the names of all survivors of the Civil war, whether regulars or volunteers, who served at least 60 days, and so increasing pensions that no such survivor shall receive less than \$40 monthly.

All Agree on Extradition.

Washington, Dec. 12.—An extradition treaty, the basis of which is essentially the same as that existing between the United States and the countries of Latin America, has been agreed upon by the delegates to the Central American Peace convention. Earnest efforts are being made with every promise of success for an agreement for the establishment of a general system of education, with a normal school in each of the countries of Central America.

Appointees Are Confirmed.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The senate yesterday confirmed George A. Westgate as surveyor general for Oregon; Louis A. Arneson, receiver, and Charles W. Moore, register, of the Dallas land office; Hugh C. Phillips, register of the Vancouver land office; Fred V. Tinker, receiver of the Boise land office.

Will Get Coveted Seat.

Washington, Dec. 13.—From the best information obtainable it seems certain that Senator Fulton will secure the place on the committee of judiciary to which he has long aspired. This is one of the most important committees of the senate.

Appointment Goes Over.

Washington, Dec. 13.—It seems probable that a successor to District Attorney Bristol may not be appointed until after congress reassembles in January. The attorney general has requested both senators to make recommendation.

Extend Powers of People.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The new state of Oklahoma has offered through Representative Fulton, to engrave the principles of the initiative and referendum and the recall upon the constitution of the United States. One of several bills introduced by Mr. Fulton provides that in "all general elections for representative or delegate in congress, the voters shall have the right to have printed on the ballot and to exercise their judgment upon any political question."

Request for the submission of questions must be by petition to the president.

Massachusetts Goes "Dry."

Washington, Dec. 13.—All but one of the 354 cities and towns of the state have gone on record on the question of permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors, and tabulation shows a no-license majority in Massachusetts of over 13,000.

Roosevelt Sends Commission.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Assistant Secretary Murray, of the department of Commerce and Labor, Commissioner Charles P. Neill and Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations, left Washington at 3 o'clock this afternoon for Goldfield, Nev., to make a thorough investigation of the trouble between the miners and mine operators at that place. Mr. Murray and Mr. Smith made this announcement after a conference with President Roosevelt.

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RATE CASE HEARING.

Lumbermen Tell Troubles to Interstate Commission.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Two Oregon millmen yesterday testified before the Interstate Commerce commission that when it was rumored that the rate on Pacific coast lumber was to be advanced they saw R. B. Miller, general freight agent of the O. R. & N., and told him the increase would drive them out of Denver, Kansas City and Chicago territory. Mr. Miller is reported to have replied that the new rates were experimental, and if the trade would stand them they would be maintained, but if not satisfactory, the rates would be restored to the old figures. It was his opinion as well as Mr. Harriman's, that lumbermen were extremely prosperous, and that their large contracts justified the raise.

Later, when the subject was broached to James J. Hill by the Puget sound millmen, Mr. Hill lost his temper and retorted that, while many mills had been driven to bankruptcy already, still others would be wiped out before the commission could dispose of this case.

"We are going to give you people out there a chance to cool your heels," he declared as he turned away.

Mr. Hill, Howard Elliott, J. C. Stubbs, J. M. Haffnord and many other railroad men will be placed on the stand before the hearing closes.

WORK IS RESUMED.

No Trouble at Goldfield When Non-union Men Take Charge.

Goldfield, Nev., Dec. 13.—The first day of the attempt to re-open the mines of Goldfield without the aid of the Western Federation of Miners has passed, and there has not been a single instance of attempted violence or disorder in the camp. Unarmed pickets of the Goldfield miners union have approached as close to the scene of the operations as the armed guards of the Mineowners' association would permit and have succeeded in inducing some of those who had signed the agreement to return to work, to violate that agreement and leave the mines.

It was stated last night that the leaders of the strike have secured what evidence they want to prosecute some of the mining operators under a statute of the state of Nevada, which makes it a crime punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$300, or imprisonment for not less than 20 nor more than 160 days, or both, to require an employee to promise or agree not to become a member or remain a member of any labor organization. Arrests may be expected at any time, it is stated by some, while others characterize the whole report of probable arrest as a bluff.

MEET IN DENVER.

National Democratic Convention Is Called for July 7, 1908.

Washington, Dec. 13.—After deciding to hold the next Democratic national convention at Denver, and fixing the date of the meeting for July 7, 1908, the Democratic National committee late yesterday entered upon a spirited debate on the propriety of accepting more of the \$100,000, offered by Denver for the convention than is actually needed to pay the convention expenses in that city. The opposition to the acceptance of the contribution took the form of a resolution by Representative Clayton, of Alabama, declining money not actually needed for the convention, but after a long debate the resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 31 to 14.

Mr. Clayton, Representative John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, and Governor Hoke Smith, of Georgia, all spoke in favor of the passage of the resolution.

Mr. Taggart advocated the acceptance of the \$100,000, saying it would be needed now even worse than it was needed in 1904, and that at that time it would have been practically impossible to open headquarters for Judge Parker if the committee had not had the extra money secured from St. Louis, where the convention was held.

Bodies Are Washed Away.

Bloomington, Pa., Dec. 13.—Owing to the high water in the Susquehanna river and the terrific force of the current, no attempt was made today to recover the bodies of the seven men drowned yesterday when the Millville bridge collapsed. The water rose rapidly until noon, when it began to subside. With the flood as it is at present any attempt to recover the bodies would be futile, and probably nothing can be done in that connection for several days. All of the seriously injured are expected to recover.

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