

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Saturday, December 21

Washington, Dec. 21.—The senate today passed a bill suspending during the year 1907 the requirement that miners shall do at least \$100 worth of work annually during the period in which their claims are being perfected.

Cullum introduced a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution limiting the terms of the president and vice president to six years and prohibiting re-election for a second term.

A number of other bills and resolutions were introduced. After being in session 45 minutes, the senate today adjourned until January 6.

A bill providing security to depositors of banks and for the prevention of hoarding of currency, was introduced today by Senator Owen, of Oklahoma. It fixes a tax upon all deposits and from the fund thus created provides for the payment in full of all depositors when a bank is declared insolvent. The secretary of the treasury is directed to maintain a fund of \$100,000,000 in treasury notes, which may be loaned on bonds to 90 per cent of their value. The bill provides that advances from it shall be charged for at the rate of 6 per cent for the first four months and thereafter at the rate of 8 per cent.

Senator Burkett reintroduced his grazing bill of last session. It provides for the leasing of the public domain to cattle owners for the maintenance of their stock, giving, however, settlers the right to enter and to locate upon land at any time.

Washington, Dec. 21.—After being in session about 20 minutes, the house of representatives today adjourned until January 6. The proceedings were enlivened by a brief but forceful speech by Gaines of Tennessee, who criticized the house for its inaction and for taking such a long recess at a time "when we should have gone to Wall street and throttled the thieves and turned back to the honest people their hard earnings."

Gaines was preceded by Hepburn of Iowa, who protested against what he said was the indiscriminate way in which committees were given authority to sit during the session of the house, thereby causing members to be immune from arrest in case it became necessary to secure a quorum.

Both Williams and De Armond were upon the floor, but took no notice of each other.

RIXEY TELLS ALL ABOUT IT.

Brownson Claimed Authority Over Hospital Ships.

Washington, Dec. 27.—That a serious breach exists between the bureau of navigation and the bureau of medicine of the navy, involving the question of the responsibility of the latter bureau, was made apparent in a statement issued by Surgeon General Preeley M. Rixey, of the navy, in which he touches upon the circumstances leading up to the probable selection by the president of a medical officer to command the hospital ship Relief over the protest of Rear Admiral Brownson, chief of the bureau of navigation, who has sent his resignation to the president. While disclaiming exact knowledge as to the cause of Admiral Brownson's resignation, the surgeon general's statement leaves little room for doubt that the controversy he reviews was a potent factor.

Oregon Men Appointed.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The president sent the senate the following Oregon nominations just before the holiday recess: Land office receivers—Albert A. Roberts, La Grande; Fred P. Cronmiller, Lakeview; Frank Davey, Burns. Land office registers—Frank C. Bramwell, La Grande; John N. Watson, Lakeview. Consuls—Maxwell Blake, of Missouri, at Dunferline, Scotland; George B. Killmaster, of Michigan, at Newcastle, New South Wales; John H. McCunn, of Wisconsin, at Glasgow, Scotland; Maxwell K. Moorhead, of Pennsylvania, at Acapulco, Mexico.

Open Land of Spokane.

Washington, Dec. 28.—To facilitate the opening of the unallotted portion of the Spokane Indian reservation, Representative Jones and Senator Filer have asked the Indian office to send an inspector to Washington to conclude negotiations with the Spokane Indians under which congress can authorize the disposition of all land remaining when allotments are completed. It is hoped that an agreement can be speedily reached so that legislation opening the reservation to entry can be passed this season.

How to Make Travel Safe.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Every citizen of the United States is more or less interested in the question of safe operation of railway trains, and that the majority of people believe that the railroads are not doing all they could do to reduce the fearful toll of life which the operation of American railways exacts annually is evident from the fact that there has been an insistent public demand for the Interstate Commerce commission to take up the question.

Close Alaskan River Fishing.

Washington, Dec. 24.—President Roosevelt indicated that he would set aside Wood river, in Alaska, for salmon propagation. The order will prohibit salmon fishing in this river. This arrangement was taken on recommendation to the president by a delegation of fishermen presented by Senator Fulton, of Oregon, and Delegate Cole, of Alaska.

DECIDES AGAINST OREGON.

Commission Finds Denatured Alcohol Rates Not Too High.

Washington, Dec. 24.—In an opinion rendered by Commissioner Clark for the Interstate Commerce commission in the case of the Railroad commission of Oregon against the O. R. & N. and other railroads, important action was taken respecting shipments of denatured alcohol. The complaint asks for a reduction in the rates on denatured alcohol to Oregon points. The record shows that denatured alcohol is manufactured in California and sold in the North Pacific cities at a price which could be met by the Eastern product only by reducing the transportation charges to nothing.

An effort to place denatured alcohol on a parity with spirits would lead either to a large increase in the charges on the proof spirits or a practical wiping out of the charges on the denatured article. Such increase in the charges on the proof spirits, in the opinion of the commission, probably would render futile all effort to compete with the California product. The rates complained of were not shown to be unreasonable, unduly discriminatory or unjustly prejudicial. The commission therefore dismissed the petition.

General to Retire.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Brigadier General Charles S. Smith, on special duty at the proving grounds at Sandy Hook, N. J., has been placed on the retired list of the army by operation of the law on account of age. General Smith is the junior brigadier, having only been appointed to that grade in October last. He is a native of Vermont, but was appointed to the military academy in July, 1862, from Illinois. At the time of his promotion to the grade of brigadier general he was in command of the Sandy Hook proving grounds, with which station he had been identified for many years.

Send Sympathy to Taft.

Washington, Dec. 26.—One of the first dispatches laid before Secretary Taft on his return to the War department was from Manila, P. I., telling of the organization under a new charter of the Banco Espanol Filipino and the election of directors. The dispatch added: "Deem it first duty to express our deep sympathy with you in your bereavement and assure you of our gratitude for your earnest and successful support. We shall use our best efforts toward realization of your policy for advancement of our country."

Fight Smelter Nuisance.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The fight of the Salt Lake valley farmers against the alleged nuisance of the smelting of ore by big furnaces controlled by the Utah Consolidated company in the Bingham canyon reached the United States Supreme court today. Senator Sutherland asked the high tribunal to review the judgment of the lower court granting an injunction against the operation of the smelters. The farmers declare that the fumes from the smelters render agricultural land valueless.

Greene and Gaynor Lose.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Supreme court of the United States has denied the petition for writs of certiorari bringing to that court the cases of Benjamin D. Greene and John F. Gaynor, who are under sentence to pay a fine of \$575,749 and to undergo terms of imprisonment of four years each on the charges of embezzlement and conspiracy in connection with Captain Oberlin M. Carter's scheme to defraud the United States in connection with harbor improvements at Savannah, Ga.

Trainmen Are Not Guilty.

Washington, Dec. 26.—A verdict of not guilty was returned by the jury in the case of Engineer Hildebrand, Conductor Hoffmeyer, Fireman McClellan and brakeman Rodder, the trainmen who were indicted for manslaughter in connection with the wreck at Terra Cotia, D. C., on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad on December 30, 1906, when 43 persons were killed and upwards of three score injured. The trial had been in progress for three weeks.

New Presidential Postoffices.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Following are among the postoffices which will become presidential January 1: Oregon—Bandon, Clatskanie, Echo, Gresham, 1,100 each; Lents, 1,000; Vale, 1,300. Washington—Burlington, Chehalis, Mabton, Rockford, 1,100 each; Raymond, 1,400; Friday Harbor, 1,000. Idaho—Malad City and Parma, 1,000 each.

Medals for Panama Service.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Medals of a suitable character are to be given to all citizens of the United States who have served the government on the Isthmus of Panama for two years and who during that period have rendered satisfactory service.

New Money Order Offices.

Washington, Dec. 26.—On January 1 the following postoffices will become domestic money order offices: Oregon—Beaver, De Moss Springs, Eddyville, Murphy, Norway, Wren. Washington—Stratford. Idaho—Cherry Creek.

Hawaiian Officials Confirmed.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The senate has confirmed the nomination of Walter F. Frear to be governor of Hawaii and of Fred S. Hartwell and S. M. Ballou to be chief justice and associate justices respectively of that territory.

STUDY FORESTRY.

Students at Oregon Agricultural College Gathering Tree Seeds.

By E. A. Lake, Oregon Agricultural College. The students in forestry at the Agricultural college are making their first collection of seeds of native trees and shrubs for use in the establishment of a forest tree nursery and arboretum. The purpose in view is not only that the work shall be instructive to the student in the study of seeds and seedage, silviculture and dendrology, but that the plant shall be a source of data to the whole state upon the growth, habit, resistance and general character of the trees and shrubs of Oregon, so far as is possible to grow them upon the same site and similar conditions.

Not only are local seeds being collected but seeds from the home districts are coming in from friends of students and the institution. This kindness on the part of those residing in the more distant and mountainous parts of the state is highly appreciated, as it enables the class to obtain a much greater variety than otherwise would be possible with the time and means at the command of either students or institution.

Owing to the fact that the course is but one year old, only the general and preliminary phases of the subject have been considered by the students in the work. The O. A. C. Forest club, an organization of those interested in the forests of the state, is now discussing forest fire laws, their enforcement, efficiency and improvement. Each student is assigned a phase of the topic in hand and in due time reports his findings to the club. Prominent timber, mill and lumbermen upon invitation discuss various topics before the club, as transportation, timber preservation, forest conservation, re-forestation, improved methods of lumbering, U. S. forest service work and similar topics. Later the advanced students will take up work looking to the solution of some of the very practical problems now before the wood users of the country.

The great problem of what to do with the waste, including the standing timber that is injured by insect and fungus foes, will be one of the first to be investigated as soon as the equipment of the department will permit.

The statement is made upon good authority that fifteen per cent of the mature timber on the western slope of the central region of the Cascade is wholly lost through fungous diseases, and that another fifteen per cent is graded as cull. Beetles, borers and minor foes do considerable further damage, and it is safe to say that the sum total of these losses must amount to millions of dollars. It is reasonable to suppose, in the face of recent results in agricultural practices in our own country, to say nothing of the modern forestry practices of Europe, that the major part of this loss could be turned to gain through the intelligent investigation of the troubles and the application of modern measures for combating these foes of the forest.

Other great problems are those relating to taxation, re-forestation, utilizing mill waste, improved methods of harvesting the crops, disposing of the debris and weed trees, timber technology and the preservation of lumber.

These problems together with many more it is the purpose of the college to help solve through the department of forestry, as well as train men to take hold of the practical work and problems of our forests and thus insure the best possible use of the tree crop.

Publications for Farmers.

The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 116.—Irrigation in Fruit Growing. By E. J. Wickson, M. A., professor of agricultural practice, University of California, and horticulturist of the California experiment station. Pp. 48, figs. 8. A statement of the relations of irrigation to fruit production, and of irrigation methods as they have been demonstrated by Pacific coast experience.

Farmers Bulletin No. 138.—Irrigation in Field and Garden. By E. J. Wickson, M. A. Pp. 40, figs. 18. This bulletin discusses the subject from the standpoint of the individual farmer, and contains instructions on the determination of ditch levels, the measurement of small streams, sources of water supply and their use, the distribution of irrigation water, methods of applying water, the choice of an irrigation method, and the time for the application of water.

Bulletin No. 147.—Report on Drainage Investigations in 1905. By C. G. Elliott, drainage expert, irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 62, pls. 5, figs. 12. Price 10 cents. This is a report of the work done by Mr. Elliott during the year 1905. It includes discussions of plans for drainage near Fresno, Cal., in the Yakima and Ahtanum valleys, Washington, in the Gray Bull valley, Wyoming, in the Missouri valley and in Hancock county, Iowa, and of drainage as a preventive of hillside erosion in Georgia.

Apple Sauce.

Wash and wipe firm tart apples and cut, without peeling, into pieces. Put over the fire with as little water as possible to prevent their scorching, and simmer gently until reduced to a soft mass. Rub through a colander, return to the fire, add a lump of butter, sugar to taste and a dash of cinnamon. As soon as the sugar is dissolved stir in the juice of a lemon and take from the fire.



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