

# DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Saturday, April 4.

Washington, April 4.—The army appropriation bill was completed by the senate committee on military affairs today and will be reported to the senate on Monday. It will carry about \$15,000,000 more than was provided in the bill as it passed the house, making a total of approximately \$100,000,000. An item of about \$7,000,000 was included to increase the pay of the army, revenue cutter service and marine corps, but excluding enlisted men of the navy, in accordance with the provision of the bill which was passed by the senate.

Washington, April 4.—By adopting a sweeping cloture rule in the house today, the Republicans left to the Democrats very limited powers. No longer can a filibuster be conducted against sending to conference bills with senate amendments; no longer can a motion to close debate be amended or discussed, and no longer can a motion to adjourn take precedence over a motion to take a recess.

Williams forced a rollcall on the adoption of the rule, and it was adopted, 138 to 119.

Consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill was then resumed, but only after another rollcall.

Friday, April 3.

Washington, April 3.—The senate committee on judiciary spent some hours considering the various bills intended to relieve prohibitions states from Federal interference in dealing with liquor traffic within the borders of such states, but no agreement was reached. It was determined, however, to vote on the measures on Monday.

From the discussion today there appeared to be a chance for the reporting of some measure dealing with a part of the questions, at least, that have been agitated in a number of Southern states, which have been prevented by Supreme court rulings from exercising their police powers for the control of intoxicants.

Washington, April 3.—When the house of representatives adjourned late today, the breach between the majority and minority parties was, if anything, wider than ever. The leaders on both sides arrived on the scene early, apparently none the worse for the parliamentary struggle of the night before. The Democrats resumed dilatory tactics and kept it up throughout the day, notwithstanding the committee on rules applying the gag law to general debate on the District of Columbia appropriation bill, which was in order for consideration. The rule was adopted amid uproar and after the Democrats had exhausted every parliamentary move which they could make to obstruct its final disposition.

Thursday, April 2.

Washington, April 2.—The executive session of the senate today was largely consumed by discussion, without passage of a bill to reorganize the public school system in the District of Columbia by placing it under the control of a director appointed by the national commissioner of education, superseding the control by the board of education composed of citizens of the District.

The bill relating to the settlement of claims of states on account of the disposition of public land was again taken up and the Bacon amendment for settling the accounts of owners of cotton seized by the government during the Civil war, amounting to \$5,000,000, was considered, but without results either on the bill or the amendment.

Washington, April 2.—Carrying a total of \$11,508,806, the agricultural appropriation bill was passed by the house late today. It had been under discussion for nine days and from the time its consideration began until the very end its provisions were attacked at every turn, with the result that it underwent many changes. Just before its passage, Scott, of Kansas, chairman of the agricultural committee, made an unsuccessful fight to have stricken out the amendment adopted yesterday considerably increasing the appropriation for soil investigations.

During the debate today a brief flurry was created by Harrison, of New York, Democrat, characterizing as socialistic the bill of the minority leader, Williams, providing for the utilization of the treasury surplus in the construction and improvement of roads in the several states.

Wednesday, April 1.

Washington, April 1.—Senator Heyburn's three-day filibuster to defeat Representative Jones' bill authorizing the Benton Water company to dam Snake river at Three-Mile rapids ended in utter rout this afternoon, the senate turning him down by a vote of 47 to 4.

The passage of this bill and the consideration of a measure for adjudicating the claims of states against the government on account of the disposition of the proceeds of public lands occupied nearly the entire session of the senate today.

Washington, April 1.—Debate on the

Test Commodity Clause.

Washington, April 1.—The government will not prosecute for failure to comply with the "commodity clause" of the railroad rate law, pending a decision of the Supreme court. The president has directed the Department of Justice to bring a test case as soon as possible after it becomes effective, the law forbidding any railroad to transport any article or commodity other than timber produced by such road, or in which it is interested.

agricultural appropriation bill was devoid of the charges and imputations which marked its consideration on Monday and Tuesday. More progress was made with the measure than on any previous day, and the indications are that it will finally get through tomorrow.

Today's discussion dwelt on a proposition for an increased appropriation for the farmers' bulletins, which, however, was refused, and the subject of inquiries into road-building, etc., by the department, the trend of opinion being that such work should be encouraged.

Tuesday, March 31.

Washington, March 31.—The alleged tendency of the general government to override the powers of the states of the Union and to ignore the restrictions of the constitution was the subject of remarks by Teller, of Colorado, in the senate today. He declared that there had grown up a practice of attempting to justify any act by the Federal authorities, whether there was authority for it or not, so long as it was ascribed to the public interest.

The remainder of the day was devoted to discussion of the Benton dam bill on its merits. Heyburn and Borah, both of Idaho, took opposing sides. Heyburn opposing and Borah favoring.

Heyburn declared he would maintain his position, even if satisfied that by so doing he would imperil his seat in the senate. No vote had been reached when the senate adjourned.

Washington, March 31.—After having undergone many changes, the paragraph of the agricultural appropriation bill relating to the bureau of forestry was finally passed by the house of representatives.

An amendment by Humphreys, of Wisconsin, to increase by \$163,480 the appropriation for soil investigations provoked a long debate. After many five-minute speeches had been made for and against the proposition, it was carried, 100 to 88.

The bill was laid aside less than half completed, and the house adjourned.

Monday, March 30.

Washington, March 30.—The objection of the president to the construction of dams across navigable rivers by private companies, except when the public interest is fully guaranteed, figured in the consideration of a house bill in the senate today. This bill proposes to authorize the Benton Water company to construct a dam across Snake river, in the state of Washington.

The urgent deficiency bill, appropriating \$2,000,000 for armor, etc., for vessels heretofore authorized, was passed. On motion of Warren, \$50,000 was added for mileage of officers and contract surgeons of the army when authorized by law.

A bill regulating the sale of liquor in licensed taverns in Alaska was passed. It forbids gambling in places in which liquor is sold. Perkins said that in the days of prohibition in Alaska there was much smuggling and illicit selling of liquor.

Washington, March 30.—Charges of a serious nature against Gifford Pinchot, chief of the forestry bureau, were made today in the house by Smith, of California, and Mondell, of Wyoming, during consideration of the agricultural bill. Smith accused him of entering into a secret understanding with the city of Los Angeles, with a view to securing to the city valuable water rights in the Owens river valley, as against the interests of private parties having prior claims. Mondell denounced him for, as he charged, illegally paying the expenses of forest officials in attending conventions in the West, in which the government had no part, and also for spending government money to boost his bureau in the newspapers. Mr. Pinchot was defended by Pollard, of Nebraska, and Scott, of Kansas.

Smith, of California, denounced the forestry service for attempting to acquire the Owens valley in California.

Cale Doesn't Like Job.

Washington, March 31.—The Honorable Thomas Cale, delegate in congress from the territory of Alaska, has the happy faculty of knowing when he has had enough. Two years in congress is all he can stand. The job is not to his liking and he intends to quit. He is not a candidate for re-election, and has so stated in plain terms. Mr. Cale has made the discovery that has been made by hundreds of men before him, but a discovery which few will discuss; that a member of congress isn't such a awful big fellow, after all. He is big to his people at home, but when he comes to Washington he is a pigmy; one of many. The job seldom measures up to expectations, and Mr. Cale is one of the few who is frank enough to voice his disappointment and get out.

Abolish Capital Punishment.

Washington, March 31.—A bill to abolish capital punishment in the District of Columbia has been introduced in the house by Mr. Scott, of Kansas.

Spencer for the Netherlands.

Washington, April 2.—Spencer Eddy, the Chicago man who has for many months been an attaché of the American legation in London and who recently married Miss Spreckels, daughter of John D. Spreckels, was today nominated by President Roosevelt for minister to the Netherlands. His headquarters will be in Luxembourg. Eddy is a brother-in-law of Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, who married his sister.

## UPPER COURT TO DECIDE.

Ruef Asks That Judge Dooling Be Forbidden to Try Him.

San Francisco, April 3.—With the views of Judge Maurice T. Dooling, as announced from the bench, that an immunity contract is non-existent in law, illegal if entered into by a district attorney and unenforceable by a defendant, indicating a probable adverse ruling on the objection of Abraham Ruef to further proceedings against him because of the promise of immunity made him by the prosecution but afterwards repudiated, Ruef, through his attorneys, today made application to the State Supreme court for a writ of mandate and petitioned for a writ of prohibition. The application and petition are identical with the ones denied yesterday by the District Court of Appeal. The Supreme court is asked to prohibit Judge Dooling from continuing the trial of Ruef, and to issue a writ of mandate ordering him to transfer the case to another department of the Superior court.

Assistant District Attorney Francis J. Heney this afternoon replied to the argument of Frank J. Murphy, who raised the question of the immunity contract before Judge Dooling this morning and contended that through Ruef's reliance upon the promise made him, his constitutional rights were invaded when he testified before the grand jury and that he was entitled to be placed back where he could attack the validity of the indictments.

## PRACTICE NEARLY OVER.

Vessels at Magdalena Bay About to Coal and Clean Ship.

San Diego, Cal., April 3.—Wireless reports received from Magdalena Bay state that the record target practice of 1908 for the Atlantic fleet is practically at an end. The Vermont, the last of the "Big 16" to go upon the ranges, completed the firing of her 12-inch guns yesterday and today was completing her record with the rifles in the secondary battery. Most of the ships also have completed their torpedo practice, so that little remains to be done at Magdalena bay but to coal and clean ship.

It is said that all of the vessels will take on sufficient coal to carry them to San Francisco. In this way the ships will be open to visitors every day of their stay at the various ports on the coast. During coaling days all ships of the navy are barred to visitors and practically all of the officers have to remain on board.

The Connecticut, which brought Admiral Evans to San Diego yesterday afternoon, and which cleared again for Magdalena bay at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, was 240 miles south at noon today and will rejoin the fleet late tomorrow afternoon.

The weather at Magdalena bay is reported as cloudy and threatening, these conditions having prevailed for some time. No rain has fallen in the bay, but a few miles inland it is said there have been heavy showers. White uniforms were expected to be worn, but blue has been the prescribed color nearly every day.

## CONDEMNNS ALL PENDING BILLS.

New York Chamber Advocates Commission on Currency System.

New York, April 3.—None of the currency legislation now before congress, with the exception of the Lovering bill, which provides for the appointment of a commission to investigate the currency and banking systems of the United States, will have the approval of the New York chamber of commerce. This was the decision today when the chamber adopted the report of its special committee to investigate and report upon pending legislation. It is the belief of the committee that there is little chance of any currency legislation being enacted at the present session of congress.

The committee's report recommends the enactment of a law providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate the currency and banking systems of the United States and other leading commercial nations and to report such measure "as may be found necessary to place our currency and banking system on a sound basis, which is absolutely essential for the permanent welfare and progress of the country."

Move to Start Mines.

Indianapolis, April 3.—The first official act of President Lewis, of the United Mineworkers of America, in assuming his office today, was to send telegraphic invitations to the operators of the competitive field, consisting of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, to attend a meeting in this city Monday, April 6, with representatives of the miners, to make an effort to agree upon a call for an interstate wage convention and, if necessary, to decide upon a general resumption of mining operations in the field.

Just Passes Contract Speed.

Rockland, Me., April 3.—Facing adverse conditions today in the way of high winds and heavy seas, the armored cruiser Montana exceeded her contract requirements by a slender margin on the Rockland trial course. Her fastest mile, which was made with the tide in her favor, was at the rate of 33.8 knots an hour. The Montana made 13 runs today, being started at a 16-knot clip, which was increased gradually to 22 knots.

Anarchy Rules in Hayti.

Paris, April 3.—A dispatch received here today from Port au Prince, Hayti, says that the situation there is extremely grave and that complete anarchy prevails. The dispatch further declares that American warships are preparing to land marines.

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