

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Friday, March 5.

Washington, March 5.—In its first regular sitting of the session, the senate today received and confirmed the nominations of President Taft for the various cabinet positions and also that of Huntington Wilson as assistant secretary of state. In addition, senators Chamberlain, of Oregon, and Smith, of Maryland, were sworn in.

Thursday, March 4.

Washington, March 4.—The Sixtieth congress ended at noon today. The final act, though unofficial so far as the house was concerned, took place in the senate chamber, where both houses witnessed the incoming of the new administration.

The senate will meet at noon tomorrow to consider President Taft's nominations, but the house will not convene again until the extra session is begun on March 15.

The senate met at 9:40 o'clock, but the proceedings were confined to the most formal work. Vice President Fairbanks delivered an address in response to resolutions thanking him for his conduct of the office.

Immediately after adjournment of the Sixtieth congress the proclamation of the president calling the senate in extraordinary session to consider presidential appointments was read.

Utterly lacking in all the stirring incidents usually marking the closing of a congress, the house at 11:59 1/2 o'clock was declared by Speaker Cannon to be adjourned without day. Having reconvened at 10 o'clock in the morning, it spent the two hours in cleaning up conference reports and passing a few bills of no great public interest.

Wednesday, March 3.

Washington, March 3.—The entire membership of the senate today presented Vice President Fairbanks with a silver service which cost \$1,185. The Democratic members gave him a loving cup.

The senate and house finally agreed to give the president \$75,000 a year and allow no traveling expenses. The proposed increase in salaries of other officers was lost.

The deficiency appropriation bill as finally passed tonight carries an appropriation for salaries for the new Federal judges for Oregon and Washington at the rate of \$6,000 per annum.

The house agreed to the conference reports on the military academy, legislative and executive and judicial appropriation bills.

A new penal code was enacted into law today through the adoption in both houses of congress of the conference report on the bill drafted by a joint commission originally appointed in 1897 and reappointed at the close of the 59th congress. The bill is a comprehensive and coherent revision and compilation of practically all the purely penal laws.

Tuesday, March 2.

Washington, March 2.—The deficiency bill, carrying appropriations for more than \$19,000,000, about \$2,250,000 of which was added by the senate, was passed by the senate today.

An amendment offered by La Follette, appropriating \$50,000 to buy a suitable memorial upon the Lincoln farm in Kentucky, was approved.

On motion of Penrose, the appropriation for inland transportation by railroad routes was increased from \$800,000 to \$1,250,000.

An amendment appropriating \$25,000 to enable the secretary of state to investigate matters in Liberia relating to American citizens was adopted.

Lodge offered an amendment appropriating \$66,000 to reimburse persons who contributed toward a ransom for the release of Ellen M. Stone, who was captured by brigands in Turkey, and it was approved.

Washington, March 2.—The ship subsidy bill, passed previously by the senate, was defeated in the house today by the narrow margin of three, the vote being 172 to 175. The opponents of the measure cheered wildly. The feeling in the house was strained as the hour of voting approached. The attendance was probably the largest of the session. Every one recognized that the vote would be close. Goldfogle, of New York, who was operated on yesterday in a hospital, was carried on the floor in a chair to vote against the bill.

Monday, March 1.

Washington, March 1.—The sundry civil bill, appropriating \$139,000,000, and the military academy bill, carrying an appropriation of \$2,641,000, were passed by the senate today.

The sundry civil bill was passed with an amendment securing \$40,000 for remodeling the White House office building to give additional room for the president and providing \$25,000 for his traveling expenses. On motion of Foraker an amendment appropriating \$120,000 to the Roman Catholic church in Porto Rico in payment for property in Porto Rico was adopted.

The fortifications bill also passed.

Seven Condemn Roosevelt.

Washington, March 4.—Seven members of the committee on judiciary signed the report that President Roosevelt was without authority of law when he sanctioned the absorption of the Tennessee Coal & Iron company by the United States Steel corporation. This merger was in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. Two of the majority committee, however, attached certain individual views, which, to a degree, minimize the effect of the declaration.

the senate today. The bill provides for the expenditure of \$250,000 for the purchase of land at San Pedro harbor, California.

Tomorrow the general deficiency bill, the last of the great supply measures, will be reported to the senate, and it is hoped it will be passed during the day.

Washington, March 1.—Transacting its business amid scenes of great confusion, the house gave every evidence that the present congress is closing. In his endeavor to maintain order the speaker was constantly pounding his gavel and admonishing members to cease conversation.

Indians Forward Protest.

Washington, March 2.—On behalf of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, has presented to the senate a petition from the general council of those tribes, protesting against the reopening of their citizenship rolls. The petition is a review of all the efforts that have been made to establish correct citizenship rolls up to the time of the action by the Choctaw and Chickasaw citizenship court by which only about 150 out of more than 3,000 applicants, which had been favorably passed upon by the district courts, were largely fraudulent and the petition declares that many of them were admitted on testimony presented before the masters of the courts, who were attorneys for the claimants.

Taft to Come to Coast.

Washington, March 6.—Ex-President Roosevelt, President William H. Taft and former Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks will be among the distinguished visitors on the coast within the next few months, according to the statement of Chairman Teller, of the Republican state committee of California. During a conference yesterday Roosevelt told Teller he would tour the Pacific coast on his return from his hunting trip in Africa. President Taft announced some time before his inauguration that he intended to visit the Far West as soon as possible, and Fairbanks said today he expected to start for California in about three weeks.

Assistant Secretary Winthrop.

Washington, March 6.—President Taft today announced that Beekman Winthrop, formerly governor of Porto Rico and assistant secretary of the treasury under President Roosevelt, had accepted the position of assistant secretary of the navy. Winthrop served with Taft in the Philippines as his private secretary in 1900, was assistant executive secretary in the Philippines in 1901, and was acting executive secretary in 1903. He became a Federal judge in the islands, and from 1904 to 1907 was governor of Porto Rico, afterward going to the treasury department.

Keeps Old Chair.

Washington, March 5.—Cherishing a fondness for the chair which he occupied for the last seven years at the head of the cabinet table, President Roosevelt sent a duplicate chair to his office and ordered the old one removed to his home at Oyster bay. The president's desk, his chair, the cabinet table and the cabinet chairs are government property. The president, desiring to retain his office chair, purchased a new one himself to replace the old chair.

Check Appropriation Bill.

Washington, March 3.—Because the senate insists upon its amendment to the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, increasing the salaries of the president, vice president, speaker and United States judges, a deadlock has resulted. The measure was returned to the house late yesterday and that body emphatically recorded itself against all the amendments. A long wrangle ensued over asking a further conference.

Dennett to Be Retained.

Washington, March 2.—Fred Dennett, of North Dakota, will in all probability be retained under the Taft administration as commissioner general of the land office. He is a warm personal friend of the new secretary of the interior, having been his choice for assistant when Ballinger was commissioner of the land office. He is also strongly endorsed by Chairman Hitchcock.

Lock Chains Prove Worthy.

Washington, March 5.—Two samples of the chain to be used on the gear on the locks of the Panama canal are being tested at the public roads division of the Department of Agriculture. The two sections were submitted to a tensile test of 147,000 pounds to the square inch before the metal parted, and on a second test developed a strength of 6,000 pounds greater.

Decides on Lumber Duty.

Washington, March 4.—The ways and means committee of the house has voted to retain the duty on high grades of lumber, as in the Dingley law, making a reduction solely on rough lumber, which, as heretofore stated, is a cut to one dollar.

Hides to Go on Free List.

Washington, March 4.—It is reported that the ways and means committee has decided to place hides on the free list, and it is further rumored that Senator Lodge, after a canvass of the senate, is satisfied that body will approve the house action.

CHANGE ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Seattle May Secure Department Now at Vancouver.

Washington, March 9.—Representative Ellis has learned that the general staff of the army is at last seriously considering removal of the headquarters of the Department of the Columbia from Vancouver to Seattle.

General Bell, chief of staff, with whom he has talked, says that in view of the growing importance of army posts in Alaska and the large shipments of supplies to those posts, the headquarters should be more centrally located than at present, and personally he believes they should go to Seattle. Ellis also finds that officers of the Department of the Columbia are strongly in favor of the removal to Seattle and have so recommended. Indeed, it seems that a movement to bring about removal was started by them.

Ellis is planning further conferences with General Bell and the secretary of war in the hope of preventing removal, but said today the outlook was very discouraging. It seems to be pretty well determined that the headquarters shall go to Seattle, though no order to that effect has yet been issued.

ROOT FOR NEW YORK LEADER

Platt Says Roosevelt Will Retire From Political Field.

New York, March 9.—Elihu Root will be the Republican leader of New York, according to a published interview credited to ex-Senator T. C. Platt, who has just returned from Washington.

"Elihu Root will head the Republican organization because of donning the senatorial toga," Mr. Platt is quoted as having said. "His powers are only less than those of the president, and he and President Taft are on good terms."

When Mr. Platt was asked whether Mr. Loeb's appointment did not indicate that Theodore Roosevelt planned to control Republican politics in this state on his return from the African hunting trip, he said:

"Any man who goes to Africa for a year cannot expect to keep his hold in a political way. I believe Mr. Roosevelt purposes to retire permanently from the field of political endeavor. Mr. Roosevelt will not be heard from politically hereafter."

Silver Notes Proposed.

Allahbad, British India, March 9.—The Allahbad Pioneer makes the curious statement that a project is under consideration to meet the British budget requirements for old age pensions by revising the scheme of the late Viscount Goschen, chancellor of the exchequer, for the issuance of 10-shilling notes secured on a silver basis. The Pioneer adds that the United States is considering a similar project and comments on the appreciation of the price of silver which would result from this, and the consequent restoration of the value of the rupee.

Primary Bill in House.

Sacramento, Cal., March 9.—One of the most important measures introduced at this session of the legislature, the direct primary bill, will be discussed by the assembly during the coming week. The bill was passed by the senate and will be reported out of the election laws committee of the lower house tomorrow, with an amendment providing for the nomination of United States senators by an advisory vote by legislative districts. This amendment is not objectionable to the proponents of the bill, and probably will receive the indorsement of the senate.

Roosevelt Helped Germans.

Berlin, March 9.—The North German Gazette, in its weekly political review, after paying ex-President Roosevelt a glowing tribute as one of the greatest statesmen the United States has ever produced, says: "From the German standpoint, the development which German-American relations made under President Roosevelt will ever be remembered with satisfaction. The tradition of friendship, which has ever marked the relations of the two countries, acquired new security during the past seven years."

Kearsarge at Drydock.

Philadelphia, March 9.—The battleship Kearsarge, the second of the around-the-world fleet to reach here, arrived at League island this afternoon. The vessel will be taken to the back bay tomorrow and thoroughly overhauled. Theodore Lentz, a blacksmith aboard the Kansas, was publicly commended today in a letter from Secretary Newberry for work in forging a new high-pressure cylindering ring to take the place of one which broke while the Kearsarge was steaming from Colombo to the Suez canal.

Big Ferry Contracts Let.

San Francisco, March 9.—Contracts for ferry equipment totaling \$2,000,000 have been let by the Western Pacific Railroad company, and engineers are now at work on plans for two ferry boats, which will connect the Oakland terminal with San Francisco. Announcement is made that regular service into Oakland will be instituted on January 1, 1910. Extra construction gangs will be placed on the line through Nevada.

Hawaii Is Anti-Japanese.

Honolulu, March 9.—The territorial senate, by a vote of 10 to five, has passed to its second reading the anti-Japanese bill, which prohibits aliens from fishing in Hawaiian waters. Concurrent resolution asking the suspension of coastwise navigation laws between the Pacific coast and Hawaii has been defeated.



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