

CASH FOR RIVERS

Chairman Burton Sure Appropriation Bill Will Pass.

ITS FATE RESTS WITH SENATE

Only Danger is that Load of Amendments May Sink It in the Upper House.

Washington, Feb. 23. — Chairman Burton, of the rivers and harbors committee, expressed the belief today that his bill, consideration of which was begun in the house yesterday, will pass both houses and become law before March 4.

There has been a growing fear that this bill would be sidetracked, not only because of the demands of party leaders for economy, but because of the unprecedented late date in bringing it up for consideration. Only eight days remain to pass it through both houses and through conference, less time than was ever before given any river and harbor bill.

Burton, however, says the shortage of time is a strong factor in favor of the passage of the bill. It will induce the senate to make only slight amendments, for fear of losing what is proposed by the house. He says that unless the senate leads the bill down with large amendments, it will pass without material objection, carrying practically the appropriations agreed to by the house committee.

HOPE TO BANKRUPT JAPAN

Russians Rely on Long Purse for Escape from Defeat.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23. — Although the party which is advocating peace as the only egress from the present situation continues to gain strength, nothing has actually been decided, and no move has yet been made. It is officially maintained that Russia's attitude is unchanged. At the foreign office the slightest encouragement is given to the peace talk. On the contrary, it is affirmed as strongly as ever that Japan must propose terms, while at the same time it is admitted that it is inconceivable that Japan can offer conditions acceptable to Russia.

The idea of a complete Russian victory is not harbored, but it is insisted that Russia is not beaten, and will not be beaten until General Kuropatkin is decisively worsted by General Oyama and the fate of Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron is determined. The main consideration entering into the calculations of the uncompromising advocates of a prosecution of the war is that Japan's financial resources must become exhausted long before Russia's.

HALF THE BODIES ARE FOUND

Only Three Were Rescued Alive, and They Soon Died.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23. — At 8 o'clock this evening 75 blackened and disfigured bodies had been recovered from the Virginia mine in which the awful explosion occurred on Monday afternoon, entombing more than 150 miners.

The rescuers are still heroically at work in the stone, and as they advance the bodies further in the mine are found to be worse burned and mutilated than those nearer the exterior. No hope is now held out that any are alive. Three men were found yesterday whose hearts were still beating, but they expired immediately.

The Birmingham district has come promptly forward in relieving the destitute families of the victims, and mass meetings have been held for that purpose. Hundreds of dollars have been subscribed, and the Birmingham Commercial club has raised more than \$3,000. Alabama District No. 20, United Mineworkers of America, today voted \$5,000 to be distributed among the families.

Russian Raiders Violate Neutrality

Tientsin, Feb. 23. — About 300 Russian raiders slightly damaged the railway between Haicheng and Tatchekiao on Monday night and again disregarded the neutrality of the territory west of the Liao river. The presence of Chinese soldiers was not reported. It is evident that the villagers kept the Russians well informed as to the disposition of the Japanese troops. It was expected that the raiders would repeat the attempt to destroy the Japanese stores at Niuchiatun, but they retired without an engagement.

Oil Refinery for Colorado

Denver, Feb. 23. — Representative Clifton H. Wilder's bill appropriating \$125,000 for the establishment of a state oil refinery was favorably reported to the house by the finance committee today. The bill also contains provisions to regulate the price of oil. Independent oil producers who are supporting the measure have offered to lease and operate the refinery when constructed, and to advance the money for its construction at low rates.

Kansas After the Railroads

Topeka, Feb. 23. — The Kansas senate tonight passed a bill for the regulation of railroads. It provides that a state railroad board shall make changes in freight rates upon due complaint being made. A section giving the board power to change rates of its own initiative was included in the bill as it passed the house.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Friday, February 17.

The house today rejected all changes in the original statehood bill by sending it to conference without taking any action on it.

The senate today passed a bill appropriating \$9,940,000 for the District of Columbia, and the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill carrying \$2,156,000.

Only one hour was spent today on the Swayne impeachment trial.

Saturday, February 18.

After an hour spent as a court of impeachment the senate today took up the appointment of a conference committee on the statehood bill. The matter was finally postponed until Monday, when the special order of the day, the eulogies upon the character of the late Senator Quay, was entered upon.

The house passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$138,285,200. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was sent to conference, a bill was passed to prohibit interstate transportation of insect pests, carrying with it a fine and imprisonment.

Monday, February 20.

The house passed the naval appropriation bill carrying a total of \$99,914,359. The provision for two battleships as reported by the committee on naval affairs was retained.

Whether the senate conferees on the statehood bill shall represent the party that defeated joint statehood for Arizona and New Mexico or the party that fought for the retention of that provision was debated at length today, but no decision was reached.

The Swayne trial was taken up at 2 o'clock. Two witnesses were examined. After the provisions of the Florida statutes relating to suits of ejectment or disqualification of judges had been read it was announced that the case of the house managers was concluded. The preliminary statement for Swayne was not finished when the court adjourned for the day.

Tuesday, February 21.

The house today passed the Philippine tariff bill, practically as it came from the committee. The river and harbor appropriation bill was then taken up but it was soon laid aside and several measures were passed, the most important of which was the authorization given the secretary of war to return to the several states the Union and Confederate battleflags.

The senate committee today reported that it would be impossible to act on the railroad rate bill at this session without ignoring the railroads. Consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was begun. A short time was given to the defense of Judge Swayne, and the senate began the consideration of the bill for the government of the isthmian canal zone.

Wednesday, February 22.

Government ownership of railroads was discussed by the senate today in connection with the purchase of the Panama railroad, while the bill for the government of the canal zone was under consideration. Consideration of the bill was not completed when the senate adjourned.

A number of witnesses were examined in behalf of Judge Swayne in the impeachment proceedings against him.

After a brief but spirited debate the house today sent back to conference the army appropriation bill. All senate amendments were again disagreed to, excepting one appropriating \$95,000 for continuing the cable from Valdez to Seward, Alaska.

Thursday, February 23.

Without a dollar being added or subtracted the river and harbor appropriation bill passed the house today, after the session had run well into the evening. The total amount carried by the bill is \$17,234,657. It was impeded by the offering of amendments, but only those presented by the committee were adopted.

The last testimony in the interest of Judge Swayne in the impeachment against him was today presented to the senate.

The bill providing a form of government for the Panama canal zone was passed early in the day.

Warships Bombard Rebels.

Constantinople, Feb. 24. — Extremely alarming reports are current here concerning the situation at Batoum and Poti. It is alleged that some vessels of the Black sea squadron (Russian) have bombarded Poti. An English merchant who has just arrived here says he was obliged to flee from Batoum, where his life was menaced by strikers and his office destroyed. This merchant says the authorities of Batoum are powerless. The strikers are all Georgians, and are estimated to number 40,000.

Rumors of Great Events.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24. — A second day has passed without dispatches having been given out from General Kuropatkin, which is interpreted to support the rumors that great events are in progress in Manchuria. The war office, however, steadfastly maintains that there is no important news and that there have been no developments since the last dispatches made public, in which the commander-in-chief reported all quiet.

Conference on Land Frauds.

Washington, Feb. 24. — District Attorney Heney took lunch with the president today by invitation. Secretary Hitchcock and Attorney General Moody were present. The object was to have a conference on the Oregon land fraud matters. The president later sent for W. J. Burns, who had worked up the evidence in these cases, thanked him and warmly congratulated him on his successful work.

MANY MINERS DEAD

Over One Hundred Entombed in Alabama Mine.

EXPLOSION OF DUST THE CAUSE

Details of Cause of Explosion Will Likely Never Be Known—Relief Hurried to Scene.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 21. — By an explosion in the Virginia mine, about 18 miles southwest of Birmingham, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, between 110 and 135 union miners are entombed and it is believed the entire number suffered an awful death. Scores of vigorous rescuers are at work digging into the mine to relieve their friends and comrades in the inside.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of dust, although the mine has heretofore been noted for being entirely free from dust. It is also believed that, as the entire quota has probably been killed, the details of the cause of the disaster will never be known.

The camp is almost isolated from the rest of the world, there is no telephone station at Virginia, and the only wire running to the place is a dispatcher's wire of the Birmingham Mineral railway, on which Virginia is located.

Details of the disaster were slow to come in.

The class of miners employed was the best in the district, and all belonged to the United Mineworkers of America. Since the strike has been on in the Birmingham district, many of the most industrious and thrifty miners of Pratt City and other important mining points have removed to the Virginia mines, so that the mines were being worked to their full capacity by the most skilled miners in the community.

Relief trains with surgeons and workmen were dispatched from both Birmingham and Bessemer as soon as the news of the disaster was learned. They began the work of search in earnest and at midnight had not dug half way through the mass of debris. It is thought it will be 10 o'clock tomorrow before the interior of the stope is reached.

The stopes are well arranged and there has never been the least trouble in the mines before. They are owned by the Alabama Steel & Wire company, but are leased and operated by Reid & Co.

EXTRA SESSION ON RATE LAW.

Will Be Called in October, Earlier Action Being Impossible.

Washington, Feb. 21. — President Roosevelt, who for weeks has been hopeful that some definite action might be taken at the present session of congress on the railroad rate question, practically has relinquished the idea of securing legislation on the subject this winter. It is reasonably certain that he will not call an extraordinary session of congress to meet in the spring, but unless he changes his mind, he will call congress together, probably next October.

Representatives Esch and Townsend, joint authors of the rate bill which passed the house, had a talk with the president today. They outlined the rate situation and conditions as they found it. They agreed with him that the prospect for the enactment of rate legislation at this session was remote. They indicated that if no action was taken at this session, the subject would be considered thoroughly during the coming summer with the idea of presenting a measure at the next session which, very likely, would contain some additional features.

Will Confer on Irrigation.

Washington, Feb. 21. — A conference of reclamation engineers has been called to meet at Klamath Falls, April 1, to consider plans and estimates for the Klamath irrigation project. At that meeting it is hoped final plans may be made for buying out owners of the small canals, including the rights of the Klamath Canal company. The government is willing to pay this company \$150,000 to get out of the way. The company demands more, but it is believed will eventually accept this figure.

Will Issue Philippine Bonds.

Washington, Feb. 21. — After consultation by cable with Governor General Wright, at Manila, Secretary Taft has decided to avail himself immediately of the provision of the Cooper bill authorizing the issue of bonds to defray the cost of public works in the Philippines. It is the purpose to issue \$2,500,000 of these bonds bearing four per cent interest and they are to run for 30 years with the option of redemption at the end of ten years.

Can't Compel Judge to Act.

Washington, Feb. 21. — The case of the Caledonian Coal company vs. Benjamin F. Baker, judge of the Supreme court of New Mexico, to compel him to take cognizance of an action against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad was decided by the Supreme court of the United States today against the company.

TERMS OF PEACE.

They Have Been Practically Agreed Upon by Japan and Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22. — Despite the official denials, the Publishers' Press correspondent is in a position to state that the czar and his advisers have of late not only discussed the question of peace with Japan, but have also practically agreed upon certain terms, which are acceptable to the emperor, and, it is alleged, are almost identical with those which have been submitted by the Japanese government to Russia through the agency of the German emperor. It is still denied that such terms were submitted, but it is nevertheless true that they have reached the hands of the czar.

The terms acceptable to both nations, and practically agreed to by the czar, place Korea under Japanese suzerainty and cede Port Arthur and the Liao Tung peninsula to Japan.

Vladivostok, under the stipulations, is to be declared a neutral and open port in place of Port Arthur, the neutralization of which Japan would not agree to. This feature, it is stated, proved one of the most objectionable to Russia, as it was hoped that the disarmament of Port Arthur and its transformation into a purely commercial port, open to all nations, would end the vexing Manchurian question.

The Eastern Chinese railway is to be placed under a neutral international administration, and, in order to provide some sort of safeguard for future peace in Manchuria, that country, as far north as Harbin, is to be restored as an integral part of China.

The main difficulty in the way of bringing about immediate peace seems to be the question of indemnity. It is known that Japan will insist upon a considerable money payment, and Russia is not willing to submit to that condition. The difficulty, however, is by no means insuperable, but if it should prove to be a serious obstacle, the czar will perhaps be willing to risk another battle in the hope of gaining a victory which may make the Japanese more amenable to the Russian arguments.

LIFE IN ONLY ONE.

Blackened and Mangled Corpses Removed from Alabama Mine.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 22. — The scene at the Virginia mine this afternoon, where a terrific after-dinner explosion yesterday afternoon imprisoned 116 men 700 feet below the surface, was the most gruesome and harrowing that has ever been witnessed in this section of Alabama. Of the miners who entered the mines yesterday afternoon, so far only 50 bodies have been recovered. The recovery already of so many dead bodies precludes the idea that any living men remain among the unfortunates still in the mine. The corpses are frightfully mangled and disfigured and identification is almost impossible.

Out of the 50 bodies recovered up to this time, one was found about 4 o'clock which was barely alive. The body was carefully taken from the mine and heroic methods resorted to to bring the man to consciousness. He is still alive, but scant hope is held out for his recovery.

FAVOR COAST SHIPYARDS.

Mumphrey Pleads for Differential on Naval Contracts.

Washington, Feb. 21. — An earnest effort is being made by congressmen from the Pacific coast to have inserted in the naval appropriation bill a provision for a 4 per cent differential in favor of shipyards on the West coast in the contract price for warships constructed in these yards. Representative Humphrey, of Washington, today strongly urged the president to advocate such a differential. If adopted, the differential would increase the cost to the government of a battleship constructed on the Pacific coast about \$150,000. This sum, Humphrey explained, would not be in the form of additional profit to the constructing company, as the shipment from the East of necessary material entering into the vessels would amount to \$165,000.

Railroads Are Tied Up.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22. — The railroad strike situation is reported to be growing worse in the southwest, and private advices are to show the existence of a reign of terror in Tiflis and the Caucasus generally. Many murders by Tartars and Armenians are reported. Communication has been almost cut off, even the telegraphers striking, the few who are still at their keys being kept there with pistols along the Austrian border is also causing great uneasiness.

Baltic Fleet at Nossi Be.

Port Louis, Mauritius, Feb. 22. — Russia's Baltic fleet is still making Nossi Be (Great Island), off the northwest coast of Madagascar, its rendezvous. The whole fleet and colliers number 70 vessels of all kinds. Only a few colliers remain at Diego Suarez, Madagascar. The Russian officers and sailors are enjoying themselves greatly. The fleet has been supplied with 50,000 cases of potatoes and 10,000 bags of flour by local merchants.

Investigate Texas Oil Also.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 22. — A petition is being circulated here asking Congressman Pickney to request President Roosevelt to include the Texas oil fields in the investigation of the Standard Oil operations in Kansas.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Salem, Feb. 17. — At 8 o'clock tonight the 23d biennial session of the Oregon legislature ended and the lawmakers were adjourned without day, after 40 days' labor.

The punishment of wife-beaters by whipping was authorized; small mining corporations were exempted from the corporation tax; railroads are compelled to make connections with each other and transfer cars at reasonable rates, and several fishing laws were enacted for the purpose of guarding against the taking of fish on spawning grounds.

The total appropriations of the legislature aggregate something over \$2,000,000, of which \$500,000 is for the state insane asylum.

After six weeks of turmoil the Jayne local option bill was indefinitely postponed by the senate.

Other measures defeated were to make gambling a felony; to abolish riparian rights; to amend census law so as to make it more applicable to present needs, and to create a mining bureau. Thirteen bills were on third reading in the senate at the time of adjournment and received no attention from the upper house.

Governor Chamberlain will be kept busy for the next four or five days scanning the many bills which were passed at the close of the session.

A compromise was effected by the governor and the legislature whereby the emergency clause was left off the general appropriation bill and it was signed by the chief executive. He had already written the veto when the change was made.

The senate today passed 49 bills and disposed of 19 otherwise. In the house four bills were passed and five killed or indefinitely postponed.

SHIPS LAST OF THE MUTTON

Pendleton Dealer Sends Cars of Sheep East and West.

Pendleton — Rugg Brothers have shipped three carloads of sheep to James Wright of Seattle for the Vancouver, B. C., markets. The animals were sheared before shipping, the wool also being bought by Mr. Wright and shipped to Seattle in separate cars. Besides these sheep 10 cars were shipped to the Chicago markets. These were not shorn, as the journey east is through a cold part of the country, and many would freeze. The Rugg Brothers realized 5 cents a pound, live weight, for the Chicago shipment and the same for the Seattle shipment.

These shipments practically finish the mutton shipments from Umatilla county, as large consignments were made early last fall by the numerous sheepmen of the county.

HEAVY DAMAGE TO FALL WHEAT

Many Farmers Expect to Reseed the Frozen Fields.

Pendleton — Farmers coming in from the north and northwestern part of the county believe that the fall sown wheat will be a total loss, as the snow has been blown from the hills and piled in the hollows and has left the fields bare. Some are so sure of the freeze that they are in the city buying drills to reseed their fields as soon as the weather permits.

Lane County Teachers' Results.

Eugene — Out of a class of 85 applicants for teachers' certificates at the recent examinations conducted by County Superintendent Dillard, 61 were granted the papers, the superintendent and assistants having just completed marking and grading the papers. Of those who passed the examination, 13 were granted first-grade certificates, 26 second-grade, 46 third-grade and one primary certificate. Eleven persons took the examination for state certificates, and the papers have been sent to State Superintendent Ackerman.

Broom Factory to Resume.

Roseburg — The Roseburg broom factory, destroyed by fire last month, will resume business. R. B. Barker, manager of the company, has purchased the old Great Central Headquarters building, and the factory will be operated there. Necessary machinery has been ordered and several carloads of broom corn are already on their way to this city from Oklahoma. As soon as the machinery arrives the factory will start on a larger scale than before.

Pneumonia Among Horses.

Pendleton — Stockmen of the vicinity of Pendleton are complaining of the epidemic of pneumonia fever which is prevalent among horses. Contrary to usual experience, it is the hardy horses who have run on the range during the cold weather that are now afflicted. Many young horses were afflicted with the disease, and, after lingering a few days, died.

To Start Irrigation Project.

Pendleton — Word has been received from Senator Fulton that Charles Thomas and H. Means, government soil engineers, would be sent to Umatilla county, to investigate conditions for the establishment of a large irrigation project. Mr. Means at present is in California.

MANY GIVE UP CLAIMS.

Relinquishments Order of the Day in Southern Oregon.

Grants Pass — Since the recent investigations and indictments following the probing of Oregon land frauds, there has been a general skimming on the part of many holders of timber claims in Southern Oregon to relinquish their rights and sell improvements to the government. A number who located as homesteaders, and who feel they are not living up to the requirements of the law, desire to secure relinquishments on homesteads, and file on the claims in the regular way for purchase.

The relinquishments are far more general in the matter of homesteaded land than any other. In years past claims were taken up as homesteads by the simple act of building a pen and roof for a house and camping for a few months on the property during the summer, more as an outing than for any other purpose. These people now realize that slack methods will not be tolerated in the future, and that the claims are liable to be lost altogether unless they are either "homesteaded" in the real sense of the word, or filed on and bought as claims.

There are a number of crushers in this section, with headquarters at Grants Pass, and these report that the land fraud cases have not put a quietus on the leasing business, as might be supposed, though the class of men now locating are different entirely from that of formerly, as the present locators are men who desire the claims themselves, and not for speculative purposes. Homesteaders find no trouble in relinquishing and selling their rights to these.

LAKE AT HIDAWAY SPRINGS.

Owner will Add 20 Acres of Water to the Attractions.

Pendleton — William Scott, proprietor of the Hidaway springs, 50 miles south of this place, in the city for a short visit. Mr. Scott announces that he will not put on the automobile line between his summer resort and this city, as he proposed, this year, but will visit the Portland fair, and perhaps find some machine that is adapted to hill climbing such as he needs.

At the springs he is building an artificial lake 20 acres in area for a boating lake. The lake is formed by damming Hidaway creek and building levees to prevent an overflow. The Hidaway springs accommodate from 150 to 200 people every summer, and the addition of a boating lake is a great attraction.

Lost Mail Sack Found.

Grants Pass — After remaining in the mud and water at the bottom of Williams creek for almost a year, a mail pouch that was swept from the Grants Pass-Williams valley stage during a trip of the freshest of 11 months ago, has been recovered. The pouch contained letters and parcels of the first class, and has been forwarded by Postmaster Harmon, of this city, to the superintendent of the Pacific coast mail service at San Francisco. The pouch was still in good condition when uncovered.

Work for the Fair.

La Grande — Much interest is being taken in this section of the county in the Lewis and Clark fair to be held in Portland this summer, and everybody from Grande Ronde and Walla Walla counties that can by hook or crook attend will be there, as the people of this section of Oregon have the keenest desire that both Oregon and Washington should do their best to advertise their respective states and show outsiders here what lies west of the Rockies.

Eastern Oregon Farmers' Institute.

La Grande — A farmers' institute for Eastern Oregon will be held at Sumnerville, in the Grand Ronde, 18 miles out of La Grande, beginning March 6 and continuing two or three days. It will be conducted by the professors of the Oregon Agricultural college. Lectures will be delivered on agriculture, horticulture, livestock and kindred topics. Union county will put forth all efforts for the entertainment of all Eastern Oregon visitors on this occasion.

First Rural Route in Josephine.

Grants Pass — The Grants Pass-Jump-Off-Joe rural mail route has been opened. This is the first rural mail route for Josephine county. The route covers a circuitous course, and is 25 miles in length, touching all points and mines of the Jump-Off-Joe and Lower Louse creek district. The postoffice, which has been maintained at Wins for several years, is discontinued.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat — Walla Walla, 87c; blue-stem, 94c; valley, 87c per bushel.
Oats — No. 1 white, \$1.35 @ 1.40; gray, \$1.40 @ 1.45 per cental.
Hay — Timothy, \$14 @ 16 per ton; clover, \$11 @ 12; grain, \$11 @ 12; cheat, \$12 @ 13.
Eggs — Oregon ranch 19 @ 20c per dozen.
Butter — Fancy creamery 27 1/2 @ 32 1/2c.
Potatoes — Oregon fancy, 75 @ 85c; common, 60 @ 65c.
Apples — 4-tier Baldwins, \$1.25; Spitzenbergs, \$1.25 @ 2c.
Hops — Choice, 24 @ 26c per pound.
Wool — Valley, 19 @ 20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12 @ 17c; mohair, 25 @ 26c per pound for choice.