

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, May 11.

Washington, May 11.—After passing 320 pension bills, the house today devoted much time to considering a point of order made by Tawney against an appropriation for a new steel floating drydock, provided in the naval appropriation bill. The chair held the point of order well taken, in a carefully prepared opinion.

Hepburn, of Iowa, made a vigorous attack on the court martial system of the navy, especially criticizing the officers responsible for the accidents that have happened to ships of the navy.

A point of order against the appropriation for the naval training station at Lake Bluff, Illinois, was pending when the house adjourned until Monday.

Washington, May 11.—Bailey's non-suspension amendment, applying to orders of the Interstate Commerce commission as covered by the railroad rate bill, which has occupied so much of the attention of the senate in connection with that bill, was today adversely disposed of by the decisive vote of 23 to 54, practically a party vote.

An amendment by Rayner confining the court review to constitutional questions was also voted down. A number of other amendments were rejected.

An amendment limiting to two years the life of the commission's orders was adopted.

Thursday, May 10.

Washington, May 10.—In connection with the consideration of the railroad rate bill by the senate, La Follette today attempted to secure the imposition of imprisonment for violations of the provisions of the Interstate Commerce law. He proposed terms from one to five years, in addition to fines from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for unjust discrimination, for false representation to secure business at less than the established rate.

After much discussion an amendment was adopted restoring the penalties of the old law.

Washington, May 10.—Shells and projectiles for the Navy department will, after June 30, 1906, be purchased by the bureau of Ordnance in the open market, instead of, as now the practice, in secret markets from firms engaged in the manufacture of these articles. This change in existing conditions was brought about through the efforts of the chairman of the appropriations committee, Tawney, of Minnesota, who offered an amendment to the naval appropriation bills which the house had under consideration today.

Wednesday, May 9.

Washington, May 9.—The senate spent the greater part of the day again in the consideration of the question of divorcing the production of coal and other commodities from their transportation, and closed that branch of its work by adopting a modified provision formally offered by Elkins, but originally suggested by McLaurin. There was again much sparring over parliamentary points, but there was no time as much confusion as on Tuesday, and, when the coal question was finally closed, the progress was so rapid that the first section was entirely disposed of before the senate adjourned. Other amendments were also adopted, but a long-and-short-haul provision suggested by LaFollette was voted down by practically a party vote, all but two republicans voting against the amendment.

Washington, May 9.—Nearly the entire time of the house was today taken up by two propositions—first, whether the navy department should go into the open market and purchase anchors, chains and cordage, or continue to manufacture these articles in the government navy yards, as is now done; and, second, whether the cost of transporting coal from Atlantic and Gulf ports to the Philippines in American bottoms should be limited to 85 or 86 per cent.

On the first proposition a substitute was adopted, giving the secretary of the navy the right to purchase these articles in open market if a saving could be made.

The second proposition did not carry.

Tuesday, May 8.

Washington, May 8.—Aside from a few minutes devoted to the reception of the Allison amendments to the railroad rate bill and a half hour given to routine business, the senate devoted its entire session today to the ineffectual consideration of the Elkins amendment, prohibiting common carriers from engaging in mining coal or in the production of other commodities in competition with shippers, and adjourned at 5 p. m. in a state of great confusion as

May Vary Size of Farms.

Washington, May 8.—The house today passed the bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to fix farm units on government irrigation projects anywhere from 10 to 100 acres, according to the productivity of the soil and the kinds of crops that can be raised. The bill contains a provision authorizing the sale of lots in the townships of Rupert, Heyburn and Sherer, Idaho, the expenses to be defrayed from the reclamation fund. Until this bill passes, these lots cannot be sold, for the land office has no funds to sell them under the general townsite laws.

Navy Men Did Well.

Washington, May 8.—Acting Secretary of the Navy Newberry has laid before the president a report of cases of gallantry and signally efficient performances of duty by officers and men of the navy in connection with the San Francisco disaster. The data were collected by direction of the president, and the acting secretary's report embodies extracts from letters and telegrams from Rear-Admiral Goodrich, commander-in-chief of the Pacific squadron; Rear-Admiral B. H. McCalla, and Lieutenant-Commander Henry C. Haines, of the marine corps.

LAWS OUT OF DATE.

Inquiry Into Second-Class Mail Matter Is Proposed.

Washington, May 7.—Postmaster-General Cortelyou has recommended to congress the appointment of a commission to inquire into the subject of second-class mail matter, with a view to ascertaining what modifications of the present second-class laws are necessary to render its report to congress not later than December 10, 1906.

In order that all interests shall be represented, he has recommended that the commission consist of seven persons and be made up as follows: One senator, selected by the president of the senate; one representative, selected by the speaker of the house; one officer of the postoffice department, selected by the postmaster-general; one representative of the publishers of daily newspapers; one representative of the weekly, semi-weekly and tri-weekly newspapers, and one representative of the publishers of periodicals and magazines, the last three to be appointed by the president of the United States from among those recommended to him by representative publishers of such newspapers and periodicals, and a seventh member to be selected by the six, whose manner of selection is so specifically provided. An appropriation of \$25,000 is recommended to defray the cost of the investigation.

The postmaster-general in his recent annual report recommends to congress a thorough review of the whole subject of second-class mail matter and the enactment of a statute to take the place of those existing, which would render unnecessary the consideration of such questions as those upon which second-class matter now depend. In now recommending this commission, the postmaster-general in his communication to the committee on postoffices and post roads of the senate, says:

"The existing statutes regulating the second class of mail matter are out of date; they do not meet modern requirements of the publishing industry, and the administration of them unnecessarily and unreasonably hampers the publishers of bona fide newspapers and periodicals."

"As an indication of what is in fact involved in administration, it may be stated that the question of what is a bona fide newspaper or periodical is one about which there may be and often is much difference of opinion. The same is true of what constitutes a known office of publication, of what constitutes a publication originated and published for the dissemination of information of a public character, what is devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or some special industry, what is a legitimate list of subscribers. All of these questions must, however, be determined in each case before second-class entry can be granted; but a publication having met all requirements is positively prohibited admission if it be 'designed primarily for advertising purposes or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates.' That such questions, especially the latter, are subtle and complex and render administration exceedingly difficult surely need not be stated."

Postmaster-General Cortelyou expresses the belief that such commission, if appointed, will be able to make recommendation that will be equitable to publishers, relieve them from present annoyance and restrictions, and at the same time protect the interests of the government.

SLIDE DAMS CREEK.

Mass of Soft Earth Holds Back Immense Quantity of Water.

Sacramento, Cal., May 8.—A special from Woodland to the Sacramento Union says:

The threat of flood in the Capay valley, resulting from the slide of earth that has fallen from the mountain side and dammed the waters of Cache creek, is growing increasingly serious. It may be assumed that the slide in question was in some way the result of the recent earthquake, and it is now found to be 1,000 feet wide and to close completely the water course. Ever since the occurrence the waters have been steadily piling up behind it, and was found by measurements taken this morning that a depth of one hundred feet had been reached.

If it had been taken at an earlier stage the dam might have been blown up with dynamite and the waters released without danger to any locality, but it is now too late to do this, as it would precipitate the flood that is feared. The dam is of soft earth and debris, and there is some hope that it may absorb the water or cut out gradually and the water pass in harmless quantities. Should it give way to the pressure the results will be very serious and a large area of country will be flooded.

Trolley Car Collision.

Trenton, N. J., May 8.—Fifteen people were injured by a head-on collision of cars on the Trenton-New Brunswick Traction Company's lines at Plainsboro, twenty miles outside of this city, at midnight. The cars, one from this city and the other from New Brunswick, were making their last trips for the night, and in accordance with the usual custom, ran by the signal. When rounding a sharp curve the headlight of one trolley car showed the approach of the other. Before the power could be reversed the cars met, and the passengers were thrown from the chairs.

Line Out to Mazatlan.

Mexico City, May 8.—Engineers of the Mexican National Railway have succeeded in cutting a line from Durango to Mazatlan on the Pacific coast. The locating work has been going on for a year. It is probable that the interoceanic railway will build an extension to the oil fields from Teziutlan.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Dowie is gradually dying of dropsy and cannot last long.

Recent earthquake shocks have caused a Cuban mine to cave in.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis is much improved though still quite ill.

Congress is receiving many protests against the prohibition of passes.

San Francisco saloons have been closed indefinitely by the authorities.

John F. Wallace has formed a \$12,000,000 electric company in New York.

The strike of funeral drivers in New York has caused the postponement of many funerals.

Count Lam-dorf, Russian minister of Foreign affairs, has resigned for a place in the council of the empire.

The British fleet is all ready for an attack on Turkey should that country continue her hostile movements.

Chicago printers have declared a boycott on Methodist rituals on account of labor troubles with the Methodist Book concern.

Taft refuses to confine purchases of canal supplies to the United States and has told congress if they want him to buy all at home to pass necessary laws.

The first steamer of the season has left Seattle for Nome.

The withdrawal of troops from San Francisco has begun.

The first step of the Russian lower house will be to demand amnesty.

The State department has forwarded \$200,000 to Japan for use by the starving people.

Senator Ankeny wants the government to use all home material for the Panama canal.

Great Britain will advocate disarmament at the coming sessions of The Hague conference.

The United States will not allow a revolution in Panama. Conditions there are now bordering a revolt.

Dowie and Voliva are said to have reached an agreement for a joint management of the affairs of Zion City.

Governor Pardee says Santa Rosa suffered more proportionately than San Francisco and that conditions there now are heartrending.

M Gorky, the Russian author, declares the donma a farce and says the Russian people know they must have a revolution in order to be free.

Shonts reports progress on the Panama Canal.

Import statistics show that the Chinese boycott is waning.

Republican Senators have agreed to support a limited court review of rates.

Anthracite miners have formally accepted an agreement with the operators.

There is talk of Taft for President, with Roosevelt as his Secretary of State.

Roosevelt has asked Congress for another \$500,000 for relief work in California.

Elaborate measures have been taken to protect the Czar at the opening of parliament.

Measures have been taken to protect San Francisco property from foreclosure of mortgage.

San Francisco authorities are driving able-bodied men from the bread lines with the idea of compelling them to work for a living.

Turkey has seized more Egyptian territory and declares she will fight Great Britain. The latter country is sending warships and soldiers to fight the Sultan.

Voliva has organized a strike against Dowie in Zion.

The anthracite miners and operators have finally agreed.

Britain and Turkey each stand firm and prepare to fight.

Russian democrats propose to give all land to the peasants.

Free restaurants are proposed to feed the destitute of San Francisco.

The president will co-operate with the several states in Standard Oil prosecution.

Loading architects estimate that the rebuilding of San Francisco will take but one year.

Franc E. Creffield, chief of the Holy Rollers, has been shot and killed at Seattle by George Mitchell, brother of two of the women the self-styled "Joshua" led astray two years ago, when excitement over the new religion was high at Corvallis.

SYMPATHY AND HOPE FOR SAN FRANCISCO.



—Chicago Tribune.

THE SOUTH POLAR TIMES.

The great depression felt by some polar explorers when shut in by ice and cold, writes Lieutenant Armitage in "Two Years in the Antarctic," was not felt by the men on board the Discovery, sent to examine the south polar lands. Every possible effort was made to keep the men cheerful and in good physical condition. Walks over the ice were taken as a matter of duty, and that efforts for entertainment were made is evidenced by the following account of their diversions:

At a meeting held in the ward room it was decided to bring out a monthly paper, something like a London magazine. Each of us wrote on a piece of paper what we thought the best title.

The South Polar Times was the one chosen. It was to be published on the first of each month; and every member of the ship's company was invited to contribute toward making it the most amusing, instructive, up-to-date journal, with the largest circulation within the antarctic circle. Notwithstanding this superexcellence, it was to be issued free to all the population of our small colony, the cost of production being more than covered by the grateful feelings of the recipients, to say nothing of the advertisers. A rival magazine, named the Blizzard, which was brought out to afford a voice for poetical effusions rejected by the South Polar Times, did not survive the first number.

On most days during the first month of the winter the clicking of the typewriter could be heard in Shackleton's cabin as he busily "set up" the paper; and frequently a shy and conscious-looking blue jacket would enter the editor's sanctum to ask his advice. A box was placed outside the office for the receipt of contributions, but would-be authors much preferred a personal audience; so our editor, in self-defense, removed his office fittings to a store-room in the bowels of the ship.

Two of the members of our mess, Shackleton and Bernacchi, were very fond of poetry, and of course each had his favorite author. Many were the arguments raised as to the respective merits of Browning and Tennyson, so it was decided that Shackleton should read extracts from Browning, and Bernacchi from Tennyson, while the remainder of us listened and carefully judged between the two, voting after each pair of extracts had been read. Their declaimed in their best style, endeavoring to point out the beauty of the passages chosen by them.

Ferrar caused much amusement, after an extract from "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" had been read, by saying, "Well, I'm not much on poetry, but I go on rats."

Browning won by a single vote.

CODFISH IS NOW A LUXURY.

Price in France Higher than Ever Before Known.

The fact that the American codfishers have been cut off from securing bait in Newfoundland as well as the French causes satisfaction at St. Pierre, not because the former have lost their baiting privileges, but from the belief that American vessel owners will unite with the St. Pierre fleet in securing and preserving bait to their mutual benefit, says the New York Her-

ald. Schools of herring visit St. Pierre and should be secured when opportunity offers. From one school last fall it is estimated that several thousand barrels could have been secured. Caplin, a much esteemed bait for use in July, seldom fails to come to these islands to spawn, and it is thought that with proper regulations the supply will be equal to the demand.

Among all the bank fishermen squid are considered good bait at any season and may be caught in fair quantities about these shores; in the past this is the one bait supply that has not been lost through lack of taking or preserving. Notwithstanding French fishermen are seriously handicapped in their efforts to secure bait, a careful inquiry establishes the fact that there is an abundance of salt squid and herring for the first trip.

Vigorous preparations are being made for the coming season, and the indications are that the tonnage sailing from St. Pierre to engage in codfishing will be more than for a number of years, among the vessels being many new ones. With a record of three bad years, this renewed enterprise is commendable.

The price of codfish in France has advanced to a figure never before reached, making it a luxury instead of an article of common consumption. The French firms are offering St. Pierre fishermen \$4.80 per 100 pounds for green fish. In drying the shrinkage is 30 per cent, and with the added cost of 1½ cents per pound as the cost of drying and transportation, with 20 per cent profit to the retailer, we have the total cost to the French consumer of 12 cents per pound. In fact, the retail price at St. Pierre of dry codfish is 10 cents per pound. France would not, however, be a good market for American dried codfish, as the duty is prohibitive, the market being held for French fishermen. On the other hand, St. Pierre cannot enter the United States markets, where a discriminating duty is levied on bounty-fed industrial articles.

The non-competitive French fishermen of St. Pierre therefore argue that the New England fishermen should unite with them in making this place the baiting headquarters for both countries. St. Pierre, although receiving a bounty only on codfish, is starting a movement to establish other fisheries and erect establishments for smoking, pickling and otherwise preserving fish.

Perverse Nature.

"Strange thing about Mrs. Dingle. She is the woman who never cared to drink any water."

"Yes."

"She called in a doctor to reduce her extreme stoutness. He told her on no account to drink water."

"Yes."

"And now she's thirsty all the time."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Cause of Suspicion.

"Is there any question about the social position of the Dollartons?"

"There was none until recently," answered Miss Cayenne. "It has been discovered that the society paper Town Whoppers printed some very complimentary paragraphs about them."—Washington Star.

When a widower marries again, the neighbor women recall with many sighs that his poor dead wife just worshipped him.