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IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, February 2.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Oratory on the railroad rate bill held the attention of the house for six hours today. The speeches of Burton, Ohio, McCall, Mass., and Russell, Tex., were features, while Thomas, N. C., Burke, S. D., and Goulden, N. Y., took up particular and specific topics.

Before proceeding to consideration of the rate bill the house passed a bill extending the public land laws to a tract of land ten miles square in Wyoming ceded to the government in 1897 by the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians.

Washington, Feb. 2.—There was for a moment today a prospect that the statehood bill would receive its first formal reading in that body, always the initial step in the consideration of any measure reported from a committee. The senate took up the calendar immediately after disposing of the routine business and, as the statehood bill occupied the first place, the secretary had begun to read it before any of its opponents realized the situation. He had covered but a few pages when Teller put a stop to the proceedings for the time.

The shipping bill was made the basis of a running debate between Patterson in opposition and Gallinger and Perkins in support.

At the conclusion of this debate a bill authorizing the treasury to investigate certain Missouri state war claims was passed.

Thursday, February 1.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The discussion of the railroad rate bill was taken up and prosecuted with vigor throughout the day. So many speakers have come to the front on this measure that the house agreed to meet at 11 o'clock hereafter until the debate is ended.

The feature of the debate was the lengthy speech of Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who arraigned the legislation with arguments of varied character, all of which tended to give his reasons for being unalterably opposed to the bill.

The resolution of Burton, of Ohio, looking to the preservation of Niagara Falls, was agreed to without discussion. The resolution calls for information from the International commission on that subject.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The senate today passed 30 or 40 miscellaneous bills and gave several hours to the consideration of the shipping bill. Among the bills passed was one providing for a delegate in congress from Alaska and a number providing for light houses, revenue cutters and fish culture stations. The greater part of the time devoted to the shipping bill was consumed by Penrose in a speech in support of the measure.

Other bills passed provide for a fog signal station at Edly's Hook light station, Washington; construction of one more fish cultural station on Paget sound, and for a tender for the light house service in Hawaii.

Wednesday, January 31.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Discussion of the railroad rate bill continued in the house today. Incident to it two speeches, the efforts of Campbell, of Kansas, and Martin, of South Dakota, took a wide range and swept the horizon of "trust evils" generally. Bartlett, of Georgia, a minority member of the committee reporting the bill, made a two hours' speech, in which he discussed the legal and constitutional questions involved and advocated the passage of the bill as a proper remedy for an intolerable condition. The first speech in opposition to the bill, which concluded the day's discussion, was made by Perkins, of New York. He based his opposition to government control of rates on an inherent aversion to government control of business enterprises. Red tape and fixed conditions, he said were an inseparable part of government action on any matter.

A bill was passed granting a Federal charter to the Carnegie fund for the advancement of teaching. The fund consists of \$10,000,000, the income of which is to furnish pensions to retired educators.

Washington, Jan. 31.—In the senate today Patterson strongly endorsed the position of the president in Santo Domingo and in the matter of the Moroccan conference. He said that he was sorry to differ from his Democratic colleagues, but that he felt it his duty to do so in these matters. He also expressed absolute confidence in the pa-

Offers to Build Railroads.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Willard Reed Green, of New York, representing a syndicate of capitalists and contractors, has filed a bid with the War department for the construction of the proposed system of railways in the Philippines. Mr. Green and his associates contend that there has been no competition, and that the matter is still open, although the department has practically accepted a part of one of the bids. The bid presented by Mr. Green proposes the construction of a minimum of 1,000 miles of railroad.

Tuesday, January 30.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Members of the house evinced a more general interest in the discussion of the railroad rate bill throughout today than in any other topic of legislation for some time. The debate throughout was listened to attentively and many questions were asked of the different speakers to bring out either obscure points in the measure, or evils complained of, which no attempt had been made to include in the bill. The debate was opened by Townsend, of Michigan. Adams, of Georgia, representing the minority, followed in commendation of the measure, and in praise of President Roosevelt's stand on the question. Hinshaw, of Nebraska, depicted the benefit the legislation would do to the great trans-Mississippi country, and Richardson, of Alabama, discussed as a Democrat things done and left undone in the measure.

The senate today passed 40 bills, many of them of considerable importance. The list included a number of measures for light houses, fog signals, revenue cutters and public buildings, and also the bill providing for the reorganization of the consular service. The shipping bill was under consideration for a time. It was amended so as to relieve it of constitutional objections and Lodge delivered a speech in support of the bill, in which he gave the details of a combination of the owners of foreign sailing vessels for the purpose of controlling the freight rate in grain shipments from the United States. There was also a discussion of the bills making common carriers liable for injuries to employees, which arose over the question of their reference to committees. Patterson gave notice of a speech tomorrow on the Moroccan and Dominican questions.

Monday, January 29.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The Chinese boycott and the administration of the forest reserves divided the attention of the senate today. The Chinese question came up in connection with a resolution of Tillman, directing an investigation by the committee on immigration. Tillman modified the resolution by omitting the major portion of the preamble, and, after considerable discussion, it was referred to the committee on contingent expenses.

Heyburn raised the question regarding the reservation of forests. He sharply criticized the methods of the Forestry bureau and charged it with maintaining a press bureau for the purpose of attacking him. He declined, however, to hold the president responsible for this course. He said that the course was calculated to retard the development of the West.

Washington, Jan. 29.—What is considered a strike at the railroads was taken by the house today in the adoption of a resolution calling on the president to furnish information as to the existence of an agreement, in violation of the interstate commerce law, among the Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, Chesapeake & Ohio, Ohio & Northern Central and Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington railroad companies. Opposition to the resolution did not develop until after it had been declared adopted by the speaker. At this point Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, moved to reconsider. This motion was laid on the table with the aid of 37 Republican votes united with the Democrats, under a rule which makes it impossible to reconsider the resolution without a two-thirds vote of the house.

Saturday, January 27.

Washington, Jan. 27.—In a session of two hours today the house passed the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, carrying \$15,216,103, incorporated in which is a provision that the eight-hour law shall not apply to alien laborers on the Panama canal. In addition it passed 263 private pension bills and read the Mann general bridge bill, making it the unfinished business for Monday.

Chairman Hepburn today reported to the house his railroad rate bill with the favorable recommendation of the entire committee. The bill will come up next week.

Light on Boycott.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The senate will begin the week with the consideration of the Chinese boycott. The question will come up in connection with a resolution offered last week by Senator Tillman, directing the committee on immigration to investigate the reports concerning Chinese opposition to American manufactures. When the question was presented Mr. Tillman asked for immediate consideration, but Mr. Aldrich objected. It is understood that he and other Republican senators dislike the preamble to the resolution.

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