

## IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, February 23.

Washington, Feb. 23. — Preceded by a debate which indicated no hesitancy, but rather a relief, in taking action against alleged railroad combinations, the house agreed without opposition today to the Tillman-Gillepie resolution, directing the Interstate Commerce commission to make an immediate inquiry and report regarding alleged restraints of trade on the part of certain railroads in the handling of coal and oil. The resolution was not in the form in which it passed the senate, and will go back to that body for its second action.

Proceeding under call of committee, bills were passed to require \$75 worth of work annually on mining claims and \$5 worth of work on roads and trails for each mining claim in Alaska; allowing foreign ships to clear from American ports without examination certificates when the countries to which they belong recognize American certificates of inspection; to prevent foreign built dredges from operating in the United States, except the dredges now at work in the United States under contract.

Washington, Feb. 23. — By a vote of 3 to 5 the senate committee on interstate commerce today agreed to report the Hepburn railroad rate bill without amendment, but the resolution reserved to the members of the committee freedom of action concerning amendments offered in the senate. By a vote of 5 to 3, Republicans prevailing, Tillman, a Democrat, was given the honor of reporting the bill. This establishes a precedent, in that a Republican senate committee has given to a Democrat control of an important measure passed by a Republican house and endorsed by a Republican president.

Thursday, February 22.

Washington, Feb. 22. — Knox's much discussed and long expected railroad bill was introduced in the senate today, and because of the exceptional interest on the subject was accorded the unusual privilege of a reading for the information of the senators on the day of introduction.

At the request of Hale, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, the bill providing for the punishment of hazing at the naval academy at Annapolis was taken up and discussed at length. Dick advocated extreme measures, saying that nothing less would accomplish the desired result. He said that he had investigated the hazing practice, and was prepared to pronounce it "an educator in brutality." He considered it a crime out of harmony with the office held by the midshipmen. The bill was passed.

Washington, Feb. 22. — The house today refused to adjourn in celebration of Washington's birthday, and its members participated in a general field day of debate on the army appropriation bill. The speeches took a wide range.

Ship subsidy was discussed for an hour by Gilbert, who took the position that ships could be built as cheaply in this country as abroad. He asserted that the United States possessed the finest merchant marine fleet of any nation.

Tomorrow the joint resolution directing the Interstate Commerce commission to investigate the railroad, soft and anthracite coal and oil trusts will be considered and most likely adopted.

A bill was passed reserving from disposal by the government Battle Mountain, S. D. The mountain is made a part of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium reserve. The mountain takes its name from being the ancient battleground between the Crow and the Sioux Indians.

The conference report upon the urgent deficiency bill was agreed to.

A joint resolution was agreed to allowing Alaska teachers and employees of the bureau of education to assign their salaries.

Wednesday, February 21.

Washington, Feb. 21. — Secretary Shaw submitted a report to the house today concerning permanent appropriations made from the general treasury, in compliance with a resolution of Representative Tawney of Minnesota, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, who has been leading the fight against permanent appropriation and has a bill pending which provides for abolishing such appropriations except for sinking fund, international payments and a few other fixed obligations.

Will Report Bill.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The Philippine tariff bill, which has been held up in the senate committee ever since it passed the house, is soon to be reported. The Democrats of the committee, who were supposed to be solidly arrayed against the bill, held a conference today and two out of the five declared their intention to vote to report the bill—Carmack of Tennessee and McCreary of Kentucky. Three Republicans, however—Hale of Minnesota, Burrows of Michigan and Brandegee of Connecticut—are opposed to the bill.

It is the desire of Mr. Tawney that appropriations shall be made available for two years for the payment of expenditures properly incurred within that time, and at the end of that period all unexpended balances shall be transferred to the surplus fund, thus avoiding making the appropriations permanent.

The report of Mr. Shaw shows that there were about 250 permanent appropriations in 1904 and 1905. In 1904 they aggregated \$62,000,000 and in 1905 \$48,000,000. He states that he favors the Tawney bill in the main, but suggests a few additional amendments.

Washington, Feb. 21. — After 15 years of more or less serious consideration of the subjects, the senate today passed the Heyburn pure food bill by the decisive vote of 63 to 4. The vote was taken after a day devoted almost exclusively to desultory debate on the bill. Several efforts were made to amend the bill, and the committee accepted a number of suggestions, but only those thus accepted were incorporated in the bill as passed.

Tuesday, February 20.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The senate listened three or four hours today to a discussion of the details of the pure food bill. A number of minor amendments were suggested, but under the agreement to vote on all amendments tomorrow none of them could be acted on today. Raynor presented by request a reply from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company to the charge of discrimination against it by the Red Rock Fuel company, of West Virginia, denying unfair treatment. The senate adjourned a few minutes after 4 o'clock out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Castor, of Pennsylvania.

Gallinger presented four petitions from residents of Oklahoma praying for prohibition in the proposed state of Oklahoma. The most voluminous contained the names of 8,000 voters, and Gallinger said that it was 264 feet long. One of the others contained the names of 6,000 women, and another those of 6,000 children. The fourth was signed by Indians only.

The pure food bill was then taken up. A long discussion of amendments offered by various senators ensued and was participated in by Lodge, Piles, Hemenway, Gallinger, Spooner, Heyburn, McCumber and others. Hemenway and Piles appearing for the first time in debate in the senate.

Washington, Feb. 20. — The house of representatives today took an immediate adjournment out of respect to the memory of Representative George A. Castor, of Pennsylvania, after the passage of appropriate resolutions and the appointment of a funeral committee. Representative Castor died yesterday in Philadelphia.

Monday, February 19.

Washington, Feb. 19. — Three bills were passed under suspension of the rules—requiring a two-thirds vote—in the house today.

The first makes gambling unlawful in the territories of the United States, including Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Alaska. The bill is directed particularly against Arizona and New Mexico, where it was stated gambling was licensed.

The second provides additional work for the Census bureau by requiring statistics to be taken on insurance, fisheries, electrical industries, savings banks and crimes.

The third appropriates \$50,000 for the purchase of 300 acres of coal land on the island of Batan, one of the Philippine archipelago. On the last named bill a debate of two hours was had. The others were debated 40 minutes each.

Washington, Feb. 19. — Discussion of the pure food bill occupied practically all of the day in the senate. The speakers were Heyburn, who has charge of the bill; Foraker, who presented a number of amendments desired by liquor interests; Money, in favor of his substitute; and McCumber. An order was made to devote time tomorrow to considering amendments under the ten-minute rule, and begin voting at 5 o'clock Wednesday.

The president transmitted to congress a special message agreeing with the minority report of the consulting engineers on the Panama canal in favor of a lock canal.

No Religious Test.

Washington, Feb. 20. — In presenting petitions against Senator Reed Smoot, signed by thousands of women of California and Colorado, Perkins and Patterson took occasion today to define their position on the protests against the Utah senator. The former said that religious views should not be considered in passing upon the qualifications of a senator, and that his honesty and attributes that command confidence and respect should be above all else. Patterson thought there were great constitutional questions to be considered.

## SEALERS MAY SUE UNCLE SAM.

Bill Allowing Courts to Adjust Claims for Compensation.

Washington, Feb. 23. — A favorable report was made today on Senator Fulton's bill which permits owners of sealing vessels seized for pelagic sealing in Behring sea to go into the Circuit court for the Ninth circuit to recover from the government an amount equal to the loss they sustained through the seizure of their vessels.

Years ago, when Behring sea was held to be a closed sea, the United States claimed jurisdiction over the east half and Russia over the remainder, and sealing was prohibited. Many sealing vessels were captured by the two governments. The Supreme court subsequently held Behring sea to be an open sea and denied the jurisdiction of this government beyond the three marine leagues limit.

Following this, British sealers whose vessels were taken by American revenue cutters sued and recovered from the United States, and owners of American ships taken by Russians recovered from that government. But this government has never paid the claims of American sealers whose vessels were illegally seized by the American government. It is to pay these claims that the bill is pressed. In the aggregate it is not believed the claims will exceed \$1,000,000.

## 'TWIXT HOPE AND FEAR.

Morocco Delegates Doubtful of Success of Conference.

Algiers, Feb. 23. — Although the Franco-German deadlock remains unbroken, the opinion of the delegates to the Moroccan conference fluctuates as to the results, the view today being rather more hopeful that some solution is possible. This is due largely to the German attitude that an adjustment eventually will be reached. The American delegates also continue confident, despite the French and British pessimism. Some of the delegates express the view that some conciliatory movement will be made directly from Berlin.

At the afternoon session the conference settled a few minor points on the bank question, including the adoption of a gold basis.

The Italian delegates are discussing the possibility of the appointment of a number of the conferees as arbitrators for the settlement of the controversial points of the French and German projects, should agreement relative to the majority of the details be attained.

Ambassador White persists in his optimistic view of the ultimate result of the conference.

## RUSSIA WILL BRAND COWARDS.

Officers Who Surrendered Without Cause To Be Disgraced.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23. — Unprecedented regulations to purge the army of officers accused of cowardice and surrendering during the war for no reasonable cause were announced today by the military organ, the Russky Invalid. Captive officers returning from Japan will, unless they were wounded when captured, be tried before courts of honor, and unless reinstated by the unanimous decision of their fellow officers, will be dismissed in disgrace. "Contusions," a frequent excuse for surrender, will not be accepted.

The higher officers who were responsible for the surrender of their organizations must secure a vindication from a court of honor and the minister of war. Such cases will be submitted to the emperor individually.

The troops which composed the garrison at Port Arthur are exempt from these provisions, the responsibility for the surrender of that fortress falling upon General Stoessel.

## Men Won't Let Women Talk.

Washington, Feb. 23. — Discord in the congress for uniform divorce laws became so great this afternoon that Miss Fannie Leake Cummings, the sole representative of Washington state, withdrew and left for her home. Her reason was "the men won't let the women talk." Of these offenders, she said, ministers were the worst. It was earlier in the day, while she was making a speech on the "Real Causes of Divorce," that C. Larue Munson, of Philadelphia, asked her to cease, because he considered her remarks "nauseating."

## Condemns Export Tax on Coal.

London, Feb. 23. — The British export tax on coal apparently is slated for removal in the forthcoming budget of Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith. Mr. Asquith informed a deputation today that, while he declined to make any declaration in regard to the taxation until he presented the budget, he considers the coal tax vicious and unnecessarily injurious to an important industry. He said that the members of the deputation would find him anxious to remove it.

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