

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, March 30.

Washington, March 30.—The house today passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, carrying \$30,000,000, after considering the measure two weeks. The feature of today's proceedings was the elimination of the age limit of clerks, a provision which created much discussion and which incited the fight against the bill. The bill as passed carries nearly \$700,000 less than the last appropriation bill for similar purposes.

Thursday, March 29.

Washington, March 29.—The senate today listened to speeches on the railroad rate bill by Clay, Carmack and Newlands and passed a bill which provides for the reorganization of the medical department of the army by authorizing the appointment of officers to take the place of contract surgeons. All the senators who spoke on the rate bill indicated a purpose to support it, but Clay expressed the hope that it would be so amended as to afford a limited court review of the orders of the Interstate Commerce commission. Hale criticized the military medical bill, saying it showed a tendency to increase the army, which was not desirable in time of peace.

Culberson presented and had the clerk read a memorial from the Cattle-raisers' association of Texas, urging the passage of the railroad rate bill as it came from the house.

A bill was passed authorizing the erection of three life saving stations on the coast of Washington between Cape Flattery and Gray's harbor.

The senate adjourned until Monday.

Washington, March 29.—Today was a busy day for the house, considerable progress having been made on the executive, legislative and judicial bill. The committee on appropriations suffered a defeat, the committee of the whole, by a vote of 58 to 22, expunging a paragraph from the bill which was alleged to be properly part of the postoffice appropriation bill. An increase of \$10,000 over the appropriation carried by the bill was voted for confidential agents of the interior department to aid in ferreting out land frauds.

Wednesday, March 28.

Washington, March 28.—Knox made his first set speech in the senate today. He spoke on the railroad rate question, and dealt almost exclusively with the legal features of the problem. When he concluded the senate entered upon the consideration of the conference report on the bill regarding the final disposition of the affairs of the five civilized tribes of Indians and much objection was expressed to many of the changes. Several senators, including La Follette, Clark, of Wyoming, and Tillman, expressed disapproval of the conference provision authorizing the secretary of the interior to lease land.

Washington, March 28.—The president today transmitted to the house the report of Assistant Secretary of State Herbert H. D. Peirce, regarding the consular service in the Orient.

The visit of Mr. Peirce included many cities, but his severe criticism is reserved for ex-consul General McWade at Canton, and Consul Williams at Singapore. The charges against McWade, ex-consul at Canton, are drunkenness, employment of a felon, issuance of fraudulent Chinese certificates, extending protection to Chinamen who claim to be American citizens, persecution of American citizens for purposes of revenge, and corruption in office.

The charges against Goodnow are 82 in number, some serious and some light. Some are sufficient to support suits at law and give evidence of corruption in office. The opinion of the better element was unfavorable too him in Shanghai.

Tuesday, March 27.

Washington, March 27.—Tillman and McCumber divided the time of the senate today. The North Dakota senator devoting himself to the railroad rate question exclusively and the South Carolina senator discussing various questions. Tillman made a special inquiry concerning the status of his resolution relative to the use of national bank funds in politics, and incidentally spoke of District Attorney Jerome's recent utterances and of Judge Humphrey's decision in the beef trust cases, declaring in the latter matter that the decision against the attorney general had merely repeated what he had said in the case of ex-Secretary Paul Mor-

Bill for Cattle Shipping.

Washington, March 27.—The house committee on interstate commerce today favorably reported a substitute for Representative French's 36-hour livestock bill. The committee bill confers absolute power on the secretary of agriculture to regulate stock shipments, permitting him to extend or shorten the periods as he may deem proper. Under this bill, the secretary could continue to enforce the present 28-hour law, he could permit shipments for longer periods, or require unloading every eight hours, as demanded by some.

ton.

Foraker defended Judge Humphrey and Tillman declared that he had not meant to attack the judge, but the law. McCumber picked innumerable flaws in the rate bill, predicting that, if enacted into a law, it would fail entirely to meet the demands of the public. He said, however, he would vote for the bill if properly amended.

Washington, March 27.—The house today witnessed a most unusual scene, the speaker rising on the floor in the midst of a spirited discussion on reciprocity and tariff revision and disclaiming responsibility for differences between minority members. It was toward the close of the debate on the urgent deficiency bill, which appropriated, among other things, for the forthcoming conference at Rio de Janeiro. The bill was passed.

On motion of Tawney, the legislative and judicial bill was taken up, when Prince of Illinois, and Hardwick, of Georgia, resumed the tactics inaugurated last week by raising a point of order against every paragraph in which there was a departure from existing law. A half dozen points of order were made and sustained affecting the officers of the subtreasuries at New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and St. Louis.

Monday, March 26.

Washington, March 26.—Following the president's suggestion, the house today passed resolutions to correct the useless printing of documents and to empower the printing committees of the two executive bodies to fix the number of documents to be printed, and, should the demand arise for additional copies of a publication, then to have authority to order another edition. It was claimed this action would result in saving the government upward of \$1,000,000 annually. Nearly the entire day was devoted to District of Columbia business.

The fortifications appropriations bill still was sent to conference.

Washington, March 26.—There was a hint in the senate today at an effort to fix a time for a final vote on the railroad bill, but it was surrounded by so much circumspection and doubt that no prediction as to the time would be justified. Tillman stated that he would bring the matter up tomorrow and, unless objection was made, he may ask to have a day specified.

The suggestion as to a time arose in connection with the more or less serious effort on the part of a number of senators to secure immediate consideration of amendments offered by themselves.

Saturday, March 24.

Washington, March 24.—Hazing at the Annapolis Naval academy was dealt with by the house today in the passage of a senate bill with a house substitute. The action was taken after a protracted debate, which placed on record the impressions of the special committee which investigated the subject recently and a severe criticism by Hepburn of efforts to condone hazing. Several amendments were proposed, but all were rejected save one, it being the duty of cadet officers, as well as other academy authorities, to report infractions of the rules. The bill repeals that portion of existing laws which makes it compulsory to dismiss midshipmen guilty of hazing in any degree, and substitutes punishment according to the nature of the offense. Cruel and brutal hazing may be punished by dismissal. Previous to consideration of the hazing bill, 265 pension bills were discussed and passed.

Washington, March 30.—General Luke E. Wright today took the oath of office as ambassador to Japan. He ceased to be governor general of the Philippines today. Henry C. Ide, of the Philippines commission, the present acting governor, will continue until April 2, when the will be inaugurated governor general.

Washington, March 30.—The legislation prompted by the recent wreck of the steamer Valencia off the Straits of Fuca was authorized to be reported favorably by the house committee on commerce today. It appropriates \$200,000 for an ocean-going life-saving tug and for the establishment of a life-saving station at Neah bay.

Confer on Bristol.

Washington, March 26.—President Roosevelt today sent for Senator Fulton and Attorney General Moody to talk over the case of District Attorney Bristol. What the conference accomplished cannot be stated, as none of the participants will discuss it or give any inkling of what disposition will be made of the case. It is stated, though not officially, that the Oregon Bar association has declined to take any action in the premises, having returned the papers submitted by the attorney general several weeks ago.

HALF MILLION TO STRIKE.

Coal Miners of Whole Nation About to Suspend Work.

Indianapolis, March 30.—The joint meetings of the bituminous coal operators and miners of the central competitive district, composed of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and of the Southwestern district, composed of Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, last night reached a final disagreement on the wage scale to go into effect at the expiration of the present scale on April 1, and the conference of the central district adjourned sine die, while the joint scale committee of the Southwestern district decided to report a disagreement to the joint conference of that district today. It is expected that this conference will at once adjourn sine die without an agreement.

The action of the two conferences will directly cause the suspension of work after Saturday by 178,000 miners unless something unforeseen, like submission of the differences to arbitration, should intervene, and indirectly will affect 206,500 more miners, not including its effect on 150,000 miners in the anthracite field, who were last night ordered to suspend work Monday. A national convention of the miners will be held today to decide whether miners will be allowed to sign the advance scale demanded and today refused by all operators with a few exceptions, and to go to work where the advance is offered. Operators employing 25,000 miners in the central competitive field have openly offered to pay the advance during the joint conference sessions.

The wage scales of all miners, both anthracite and bituminous, will expire Saturday, except those in Tennessee and Alabama, where the scale will expire in September. One national official of the United Mineworkers said:

"It is a foregone conclusion that all the miners whose scales expire Saturday will cease work until officially notified by the national and district officers that new contract arrangements have been made governing their scale."

PROGRAM FOR CONGRESS.

Pan-American Committee Prepares Subjects for Action.

Washington, March 30.—A program of subjects to be considered at the Pan-American congress to be held in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, beginning July 21, was agreed on today by the committee of the congress having that matter in charge, of which Secretary Root is chairman. In addition to Mr. Root the committee is made up of the ambassadors from Brazil and Mexico and the ministers from Chile, the Argentine Republic, Cuba and Costa Rica.

The subjects include sanitary and quarantine regulations, uniformity of patent laws, international recognition of diplomas of practitioners of the learned professions, questions affecting commercial intercourse and an international railroad.

It is expected that what is commonly known as the Drago doctrine, which is opposed to the forcible collection of private debts by one nation from another, a doctrine adhered to by the United States, will come up for consideration in some form.

IOWA WILL INVESTIGATE.

Legislature Orders Inquiry Into Violation of Insurance Law.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 30.—As a result of practically unanimous action by both houses of the Iowa legislature today, an investigation of insurance companies is to be undertaken in this state during the present summer, similar to that which was conducted in New York last fall. The resolution which awaits the governor's signature provides for the appointment of a commission to inquire into rumored abuse of Iowa insurance laws by state and Eastern companies, to conduct an inquisitorial investigation whenever in the commission's opinion it is desirable, and report to the legislature of next year what changes should be made in the laws to prevent a recurrence of any abuses that may exist.

Road Tied Up for Two Weeks.

Los Angeles, March 30.—The local railroad situation resulting from floods in Southern California and vicinity is even worse than has yet been described. It is given out from the office of General Manager Wells, of the Salt Lake route, that the washouts between Caliente and Las Vegas are so serious that the roadbed cannot be repaired short of two weeks to admit the passage of trains. The Southern Pacific also reports further trouble today. Another washout has occurred somewhere in the San Joaquin valley.

Referendum on Statehood.

Washington, March 30.—That the senate and house will reach a compromise agreement on the statehood bill, which will permit Arizona and New Mexico each to decide for themselves the question of their admission as one state, seems a correct solution from present indications.

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