

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, March 1.

Washington, March 1.—It has been years since the house was the scene of so general a battle between two great parties as took place today over the ship subsidy bill. The bill was passed, but not until it had been defeated, and this fact in itself shows how close the alignment was.

Immediately after the first ballot discussions began and on the final vote to pass the bill as amended the work done by the Republican leaders during the heat of the battle was made manifest. The bill was passed, 155 to 149.

Washington, March 1.—The denatured alcohol bill passed the senate today by a vote of 65 to 1. Pettus of Alabama cast the negative vote. This action was taken after the committee amendment requiring the presence of a government storekeeper whenever alcohol is being manufactured had been defeated by a vote of 47 to 16. The bill as passed contains a senate amendment permitting rum to be denatured. Consequently the measure must be returned to the house for action. The bill is intended to make it possible for a farmer to establish stills of limited capacity for the manufacture of alcohol to be denatured.

Thursday, February 28.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The senate today passed without division the bill extending government aid to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition to be held in Seattle in 1909 and debated for several hours the denatured alcohol bill, reaching no conclusion on the latter measure. The conference report on the army appropriation bill was presented and by the senate's receding on the point in controversy—its provision for the retirement of paymasters' clerks—a complete agreement between the two houses resulted.

Washington, Feb. 28.—General debate on the ship subsidy bill in the house terminated at 2:15 p. m. today, whereupon the bill was read under the five-minute rule for amendments. From that time until the recess at 6 o'clock amendments were offered and the discussion proceeded thereon. The leaders on both sides were drawn into the debate.

By a vote of 112 to 127 the house defeated an amendment offered by Littauer excepting the Sierra, the Sonoma and the Ventura, of the Oceanic line, from the operation of the provision empowering the postmaster general to make contracts with citizens of the United States for carrying the mails on steamships. This was regarded as a test vote in relation to the Pacific lines.

Wednesday, February 27.

Washington, Feb. 27.—After listening to an argument by Patterson of Colorado in favor of government ownership of railroads, the senate today agreed to the conference report on the river and harbor bill. Protests were made against the reduction from \$650,000 to \$250,000 of the amount for improvements in the Mississippi river between Cairo and St. Louis by Hopkins, Callom, Stone, Allison and Overman. The smaller amount prevailed.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Humphrey of Washington held the center of the stage for a considerable time today during the debate in the house on the ship subsidy bill. He had a hot exchange of compliments with Sullivan of Massachusetts about the attitude of the Democrats on the Japanese controversy.

He said he would not vote to report any bill that would not provide that the flag shall go to the Philippines. He charged the Democratic party with trying to keep this country from holding communication with the Philippines "in order to bring disgrace upon our administration of those islands. They hope to inveigle us into a war with Japan, to make us so weak that Japan will attack us, and then they hope to ride into power over their country's disgrace," he said.

Tuesday, February 26.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The senate today passed the sundry civil appropriation bill carrying \$114,578,861, an increase of over \$10,000,000 as compared with the house bill. It also passed the Aldrich currency bill by a vote of 43 to 14.

The currency bill authorizes the issuance of \$10 gold certificates, to the end that the \$10 greenbacks may be broken up into \$1, \$2 and \$5 bills, for which

Agree on Appeal Bill.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The conference report on the bill regulating appeals in criminal prosecutions to permit appeals by the government, as adopted by the senate today, allows writs of error within 30 days on behalf of the United States in the District courts direct to the Supreme court of the United States on all criminal decisions on demurrers to indictments or arrestings of a judgment of conviction for insufficiency of the indictment, where decisions are based on the invalidity or construction of the statutes.

there is a great demand. It also authorizes the deposit of customs receipts in national banks, as internal revenue receipts are now deposited. It raises from \$3,000,000 to \$9,000,000 the national bank circulation that may be retired in any one month.

Washington, Feb. 26.—General debate on the ship subsidy bill continued throughout the day in the house. The rule limiting the general debate to five hours was by unanimous consent amended so that general debate shall run through tomorrow, with a night session from 8 o'clock until 11 o'clock, when the debate will terminate. Mr. Grosvenor was the principal champion of the bill.

The conference reports on the fortifications and the omnibus revenue cutter bills were adopted. The conference reports on the army and river and harbor appropriation bills were presented.

Monday, February 25.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The senate today passed the agricultural appropriation bill, carrying nearly \$10,000,000, with an amendment providing that forest reserves in certain Western states shall not be created or enlarged without an act of congress, the post-office appropriation bill, carrying \$210,000,000; the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$145,000,000, and the bill authorizing the establishment of an agricultural bank in the Philippines.

By a vote of 43 to 19 the senate tonight ratified the Santo Domingo treaty. This was one more vote in the affirmative than was required.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Ship subsidy secured a marked impetus today in the house, which, just before adjournment, adopted a rule that will probably insure the passage of the Littauer substitute for the senate bill and result before the final adjournment in positive legislation.

The rule was reported by Dalsell in the shape of a resolution providing that the compromise bill shall be considered, with debate limited to five hours, and that the final vote shall be taken not later than next Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The rule was adopted by a vote of 158 to 122, 24 Republicans voting with the Democrats in opposition to the rule.

The conference report on the Indian appropriation bill was adopted, as was the conference report on the bill providing for the allotment and distribution of Indian tribal funds.

Saturday, February 23.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Although the senate devoted four hours to legislative matters today, nothing was accomplished except speech-making. The agricultural appropriation bill received further criticism. It is proposed that \$1,000,000 be added to the fund at the disposal of the Forest service to make up for revenue taken away from it and turned into the treasury. While this amendment probably is to be accepted, Heyburn will not permit to receive final action until he has exhausted every legitimate means of opposition.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The house adopted an amendment to the sundry civil bill providing that no bar or canteen where intoxicating liquors are sold shall be maintained in National soldiers' homes. In view of the campaign throughout the country against the canteen in soldiers' homes, intense interest was shown when that feature of the bill was reported.

Four hundred thousand dollars was added to the appropriation for the geological survey. The sundry civil appropriation, the largest in the history of the government, carrying \$105,000,000, was passed.

Retain Foreclosures Ten Years.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Lodge agricultural Philippine bank bill, as passed by the senate, contains an amendment suggested by Culberson requiring that the bank may not hold lands which it has acquired on mortgage foreclosure longer than ten years.

Telephone for Lifesavers.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Senator Fulton has secured the adoption of an amendment to the sundry civil bill appropriating \$5,000 for a telephone line from the Umpqua lifesaving station to the mouth of the Siuslaw river, also \$20,000 for rebuilding the lighthouse at Cape Arago.

Beatty Will Hold Over.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Judge Beatty, of Idaho, has been requested to remain on the bench to hold the March term of court, which means that his resignation will not be accepted until after congress adjourns. It is understood that this arrangement is made so that the president, in making the selection of a new judge, may have the views not only of Senator Heyburn, but of Senator Borah. No recommendation can properly be filed until Judge Beatty's resignation has been accepted. The president wants to get the right man.

PLAN TO STOP SACK GRAFT.

Palouse Farmers Will Carry Their Wheat to Elevators.

Waverly, Wash., Feb. 26.—The farmers and wheatgrowers of this district have decided to do away with the "sack profit," and elevators for handling wheat in bulk will be built all along the Spokane & Inland Electric road. A very enthusiastic meeting was held here recently and the matter thoroughly discussed by the farmers. The meeting was addressed by a representative of the elevator company, who explained the advantages to be derived from the farmers handling loose instead of sacked grain.

The company will be organized to enable the wheatgrower to handle his grain in the most economical manner, and thereby save the price of sacks, which sell for from 10 to 11 cents each. The farmers feel that they have been imposed upon by the "sack grafters" long enough, and they have decided to stop buying sacks and handle their wheat in bulk.

Wagon boxes that will hold 100 bushels of wheat to haul to the elevators will cost the farmers but \$15 each, and these boxes can be used from year to year. All elevators will be equipped with the most modern machinery for the handling and cleaning of grain in the most economical manner. Wheat can be handled fully a cent a bushel cheaper than through the warehouses in sacks. Wagon dumps and shipping scales will be provided at every elevator. These elevators will probably be built all through the Palouse country this season, as farmers all over Eastern Washington are anxious to do away with sacks.

TRUST IS REALITY.

Farmers Holding Back Produce for Better Prices.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—The farmers' trust has arrived. It has stretched its big, strong hands over the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. Its knotted fingers have piled up millions of bushels of grain and fruit and thousands of bales of cotton into a mountain heap, and the trust has said to the dealers of the world:

"You can't have any of this until you pay us what we think is coming to us. Now do your worst."

Ever since early last fall, board of trade men and shippers of grain have been talking about the scarcity of cars. To that scarcity they have attributed almost entirely the fact that corn, wheat and other farm products do not move to the market centers with more haste. The dearth of cars is an everyday theme in the speculative and commercial gossip. That there is a great deal in it nobody disputes, but a still more significant phenomenon of the day is that grain is being held back because the farmers are determined they shall get the price they have set on their own property.

RATES ON DECLINE.

Senator Elkins Files Long List of Railroad Statistics.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, has just completed and filed in the senate is minority report on the railroad rate law. It presents a comprehensive history of the economic development of American railroads, together with exhaustive tables which tend to show a constantly decreasing freight and passenger rate, and the relation between such rates and the price of commodities and cost of labor.

"The average passenger rate," says the report, "advanced slightly from 1870 to 1880. During the next 24 years there was a decline equal to 17.85 per cent of the average for 1880. The net decline from 1870 to 1890 averaged 16.14 per cent. The decline in the average rate per mile per ton of freight was 58.71 per cent during the years from 1870 to 1904, the rate for the earlier year being about two and one-half times that of the latter, and the net saving to the shippers averaged 11.09 mills per ton per mile."

The report says that the cost of transportation in 1904 was nearly \$2,000,000,000 less than it would have been had the rates for 1870 still prevailed.

Dry Farming in Malheur.

Vale, Or., Feb. 26.—Persons here from Pendleton and Walla Walla state that they will take up some of the bench land just west of Vale and use dry farming methods. They feel certain that the soil is similar and better than that around Pendleton, on which such excellent returns are being made. No dry farming has ever been tried in this section of the county, and the outcome is being prophesied as a failure by some of the old settlers, but those who are studying the situation state there can be no doubt as to success.

Forty of Crew Perished.

Canea, Island of Crete, Feb. 26.—All the passengers on board the Austrian steamer Imperatrix, which ran on a rock Friday evening near Cape Elaphoniso, were saved. Forty members of the crew, of whom 32 were Austrians and eight Indians, perished.

ALL BUT ONE SAVED

Steamer Corona Goes on Rocks Off Eureka, California.

VESSEL IS A HOPELESS WRECK

High Sea Running and Life-savers Have Hard Task to Reach Doomed Ship.

Eureka, March 2.—The steamer Corona, Captain Boyd, considered the best boat in the Pacific Coast Steamship company's service between this city and San Francisco, lies straddling the north jetty on the Humboldt bar, a hopeless wreck. The Corona, with nearly 100 passengers aboard, struck at 10:10 o'clock yesterday morning, as Captain Boyd was attempting, in the teeth of a stinging wind and a terrific bar flood, to drive her into port.

The usual scenes attendant upon a shipwreck followed. The passengers rushed into the social hall. Some of the women were hysterical and some of the men were palsied with fear, but reassuring words from the crew and some of the calmer passengers brought calm. Thereafter the passengers assembled upon the hurricane deck, where they remained until the rescue work was undertaken in the afternoon.

Soon after the ship struck, a boat, in charge of Quartermaster Gunn, was lowered away. It contained three of the crew and three steerage passengers. This boat capsized at once in the boiling surf and H. Erickson, a Swede, was drowned. Gunn and the others succeeded in reaching shore, the life-saving crew under Captain Hennig having come to their assistance.

A second boat, in charge of Second Officer B. V. Joenn, was put off. Badly battered and leaking like a sieve, this boat reached the shore. Meanwhile, T. F. Sothorn, night saloon watchman, formerly a marine in the United States navy, stripped to the waist and attempted to carry a line ashore. The small line he had tied about his waist parted, however, before he had gone far. Sothorn was picked up by the life-savers. Several attempts were made to shoot a line aboard with the Lyle gun, but each time the line fell far short.

Finally it was decided by Captain Hennig and the life-savers to go out in the billows, and they made as gallant a voyage as ever men undertook, finally reaching the side of the Corona and picking up the line.

Within a short time after the Corona struck, news of the accident was communicated to Eureka and several thousand people during the day went to the beach opposite the wreck to watch the work of rescue. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to work early in the day, but it was not until 4:50 o'clock in the afternoon that Captain Hennig and his men worked effectively.

SAYS SENATE WAS BOUGHT.

Story About Cause of Spanish War Excites Spain.

Madrid, March 2.—A sensation has been caused here by the publication of a story credited to the Diario de la Marina, of Havana which purports to show by documentary evidence that the United States congress was bought in 1897 by Tomas Estrada Palma to insure war being declared against Spain. According to the Havana newspaper, bonds to the value of \$37,000,000, redeemable when Cuba should become independent, were issued in Washington to senators and a contract exists which contains phraseology like that of the joint resolution of April, 1888, voted by congress. The article says further that the value of the bonds fell heavily in 1899, and therefore a new contract was made between Palma and the American senators. Count Salazar, minister of foreign affairs, has telegraphed to the Spanish representative at Washington for the fullest information.

Japanese Cruisers for Jamestown.

Yokohama, March 2.—The Japanese cruisers Tsukuba and Chitose left at 11 o'clock this morning for Jamestown, Va. Naval Minister Vice Admiral Saito, Admirals Togo, Ito, Inouye, the naval attaché at the American embassy, Consul General Miller and local Japanese officials were present upon the occasion. The emperor and crown prince sent special aides de camp with a farewell message to Admiral Ijima on the flagship Tsukuba. The pier, which was decorated, was lined with an interested but undemonstrative crowd.

New Treaty Causes Uproar.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., March 2.—There is intense excitement in Santo Domingo regarding the new American-Dominican treaty. The ministers demand the withdrawal of Senor Velasquez' portfolio or that the president accept their resignations.

SUB-TREASURY ROBBED.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Theft Uncovered in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The Tribune today says:

One of the largest—if not the largest—thefts from the United States treasury has been unearthed in Chicago.

Somewhere between \$175,000 and \$200,000 was stolen from the local sub-treasury last week. The money has disappeared as completely as if it had vanished from the earth.

The authorities here and in Washington have been working night and day on the robbery since it was discovered.

Chief Wilkie, of the United States Secret service, has been keeping informed by telephone and telegraph of every development, and, according to telegraphic advices, he will leave Washington today to take personal charge of the investigation.

Secretary Shaw, of the Treasury department, was told of the big theft when in Chicago last week, and was in conference with Sub-Treasurer William Boldenwick and secret service officials. The money was stolen either a week ago Saturday, the next day or Monday. The chances are it was abstracted on Monday. The loss was discovered Tuesday.

All the money taken was in large bills—bills of the denomination of \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. Just who discovered the loss the sub-treasury officials would not admit last night. Neither would they tell from what department the money was taken, nor how the loss was discovered.

DANGER TO HARBOR BILL.

May Be Killed Entirely to Avert Big Treasury Deficit.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Since Chairman Tawney, of the appropriations committee, called attention to the probability of a deficit of \$100,000,000, in consequence of the large appropriations made this session, there has been considerable talk around the capitol about defeating the river and harbor bill, thus removing the possibility of such deficit.

The river and harbor bill as passed by the house carried \$83,000,000. As amended by the senate, it carries \$92,000,000, and the prospects are that, if the conference committee agrees, it will report a bill carrying in the neighborhood of \$90,000,000, or approximately the amount of the deficit predicted by Mr. Tawney.

Friends of the river and harbor bill, since the rumor started, have become active in urging prompt agreement on the bill in conference, so that it will not run the chance of being talked to death in the last day or two of the session. If the report is delayed until the middle of the week, and a few senators determine to kill it, they will have the bill entirely within their power.

STOP FOREST RESERVES.

Fulton Would Give Congress Authority to Create.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Fulton has offered his amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, prohibiting the creation of further forest reserves in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado, except by authority of congress. Senator Lodge, who threatened to raise a point of order against the amendment, withdrew his objection, and it was generally agreed that the amendment would be permitted to go in the bill if it was not debated. This is satisfactory to Mr. Fulton, and he expects to have the amendment accepted by the senate when the bill is taken up.

Western men in congress are thoroughly aroused at the Forest service for its attempt not only to regulate all government timber land but public range land as well, and in consequence legislation recommended by the president, looking to the leasing of the public range and the reservation of all public timber land now in reserves, will be tabled.

Japanese Will Investigate.

Seattle, Feb. 25.—The Japanese association of Seattle has appointed a committee of five to make a full and impartial report on conditions existing in the Pacific Northwest, as regards their countrymen. The result of the committee's investigations will be sent to the government at Tokio, through the Japanese ambassador at Washington. A. Hattori, president of the association, declared that the meeting was not called as a government function, but merely through a sense of national pride to investigate conditions.

No Hope for Seattle Fair Bill.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Piles has about abandoned hope of securing the passage through the senate this session of Senator Ankeny's bill appropriating \$700,000 for the Seattle exposition. Senator Hale refuses to withdraw his objection. As the bill cannot pass the house this session, the whole matter will go over to the next congress, when it stands a fair chance of passing.