

# DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Monday, April 9.

Washington, April 9.—McLaurin and Morgan addressed the senate today on the railroad rate question, the former advocating the legislation and the latter opposing. The Mississippi senator announced his intention to support an amendment providing for a court review of the decisions of the Interstate Commerce commission and also stated his adherence to the Bailey amendment, prohibiting the temporary suspension of the commission's orders by the inferior courts. He criticized what he characterized as an effort to inject politics into the consideration of the bill. Morgan took the position that the proposed legislation was an interference with the rights of the states to control the corporations created by themselves, and said that the best way to keep the waterways in such condition as to insure competition.

Washington, April 9.—Notwithstanding that this was District day in the house and that body resolved itself into a common council for the purpose of making laws for the District of Columbia, general interest was shown in the bills requiring non-resident pupils to pay tuition and regulating the employment of child labor. Hepburn, of Iowa, replying to a long speech of Sims, of Tennessee, in which he contended for self government for the people of the District of Columbia, made a defense of the form of government, but criticized its administration. He did not think two newspaper men and one army officer, who constitute the board of commissioners, the proper personnel for such a government.

Saturday, April 7.

Washington, April 7.—The house did not indulge itself in the usual half holiday today, but continued the consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill, and in the latitude accorded under general debate the discussion took on a wide range, including railway mail pay, increased pay for rural letter carriers, the American smelter trust and the corrupt use of money in elections, with side lights on naturalization laws.

Dalzell, Republican, of Pennsylvania, called up the bill amending the internal revenue laws to prevent the double taxation of certain distilled spirits. He asked that the bill be considered by the house as in committee of the whole, possibly anticipating some debate. Before he could make any statement, the speaker had the bill read a third time, indorsed and passed, while general laughter over the expeditious way the speaker disposed of legislation ran around the chamber.

Friday, April 6.

Washington, April 6.—In making an effort today to get the senate to agree upon a date for taking a vote on the railroad rate bill, Tillman made the important statement that one week more probably would exhaust the general debate. He failed, however, to secure the consent of Aldrich, who said that he would not be willing to agree to vote on the bill until it was more nearly perfected than it now is. During the day there were three speeches on the rate bill. The first of these was made by Elkins, who, while expressing the opinion that the situation demands legislation, indicated many defects in the pending bill. Gamble followed in support of the bill, and Kean closed in opposition. Elkins was frequently interrupted, and several spirited colloquies marked the progress of his remarks. No senator being prepared to speak tomorrow, the senate adjourned until Monday.

Washington, April 6.—Tariff railway mail subsidies, denaturalized alcohol and enlarged postal facilities for Western countries were the features of the debate in the house today. What were alleged to be the iniquities of the Dingley law, so far as the manufacture of watches is concerned, were discussed by Rainey, of Illinois, whose tariff revision speech was listened to with much interest. The "stand-patters" made copious notes for the discussions on protection which are foreshadowed.

Without touching the merits of the postoffice appropriation bill, which nominally was under discussion, the house at 5:15 adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Thursday, April 5.

Washington, April 5.—The postoffice appropriation bill, following an immemorial custom, was made the vehicle

Fortify Forestry Policy.

Washington, April 9.—When the Carter bill now on the senate calendar becomes law, most of the Oregon opposition to certain features of forest reserves will be disarmed. This law will have the further effect of removing the most serious objection to the pending measure which purposes to keep with the government title to all land bearing commercial timber which is yet public domain. Mr. Carter's bill provides that the secretary of agriculture may permit bona fide homestead entries within forest reserves.

for a number of speeches today having no bearing on the subject under discussion, but of general interest to the country. The rights of labor were discussed by Towne, of New York; goods road, by Lee, of Georgia; railway mail pay by Steensson, of Minnesota, and protective tariff by Rainey, of Illinois. Incident to his speech on labor, Towne spoke of the increased power given the speaker of the house by the rules now in force. He said that, if the house ever has its ancient dignity and power restored, it will be after it has vindicated the right of discussion of all public questions.

Washington, April 5.—In the senate today there was a re-echo of the White house conference of last Saturday relative to the pending railroad legislation, and, while the discussion ended in good nature, there was a time when the feeling was quite intense. The incident occurred at the close of a speech by Stone, which was devoted largely to a discussion of that conference.

Elkins has given notice of a speech on the rate bill for tomorrow and Bailey for a speech on that subject Tuesday. The Texas senator will reply especially to the criticisms made by Spooner and Knox, of his plan for a limitation of the powers of inferior courts in granting injunctions in rate litigation.

Newlands continued his argument in support of his proposition for the national incorporation of railroad companies.

Wednesday, April 4.

Washington, April 4.—In the senate today Newlands discussed the railroad rate bill and Daniel the question of the lack of representation by the Southern states in the public service. Newlands advocated amendments to the rate bill providing for the national incorporation of railroads, and announced himself as favorable to the governmental ownership of these utilities. Daniel's speech was based on a provision in the urgent deficiency appropriation bill for the representation of the United States at the next Pan-American congress, to be held in Rio de Janeiro next July. The deficiency bill was amended so as to provide for more delegates, and as amended was passed.

Washington, April 4.—The house during its session today listened to a criticism of the president on the part of Fitzgerald, New York, for the failure of the chief executive properly to advise the house as to the objections he had to the bill opening 505,000 acres of land for grazing purposes in Oklahoma territory, instead of advising the members of the Indian Affairs committee as to the weakness of the measure, so that it might be amended to meet the wishes of the commissioner of Indian affairs.

The postoffice appropriation bill was taken up, but beyond an explanation by the chairman of the postoffice committee, Overstreet, no headway was made.

Tuesday, April 3.

Washington, April 3.—Senators Long and Allison were under cross examination by their brother senators today on the White house conference on the former's court review amendment to the rate bill. After Long had spoken at length in support of his amendment, both the railroad senators on the Republican side and the Democratic senators wanted to know more about its paternity. They scented in its being discussed with the president and his advisers by a few of the friends of the bill before its introduction in the senate an invasion of the sacred prerogatives of the upper house. Long and Allison successfully fenced with the questions and refused to divulge what transpired at the conference.

Washington, April 3.—By a vote of 202 to 26 the house today passed the national quarantine bill. The bill places the control of all quarantine stations, grounds and anchorages under the secretary of the treasury and directs that as soon as practicable after the approval of the act he shall select and designate such suitable places for them and establish the same at such points on or near the seacoast of the United States or the Mexican border as in his judgment are best suited for the same, in order to prevent the introduction of yellow fever into the United States.

The bill carries an appropriation of \$500,000.

American Questions Up.

Washington, April 9.—The State department has suggested to the Russian government through Ambassador Rosen that the period suggested in the Russian note for the convention of the second Hague peace conference, namely the early part of July, would be inconvenient to America and to some of the other countries of this hemisphere, which were expected to be represented at The Hague. The reason for this action was to avoid a conflict with the Pan-American congress, which has been set for July 21.

OFFER TO ARBITRATE.

Miners Willing to Let Conciliation Board Settle Trouble.

New York, April 6.—Having failed to come to an agreement themselves, the hard coal miners of Pennsylvania, through their representatives, today proposed to the operators that all matters in dispute be referred to a board of arbitration for settlement, the tribunal to be composed of the board of conciliation which was created by the award of the Anthracite Strike commission in 1903, with Judge Gray, of Delaware, or any person he may appoint, as chairman and umpire. If the operators accept the proposition and a convention of mineworkers approves the plan, the 160,000 men now idle in the anthracite fields will return to work at once. While it had been reported for several days that the miners might ask that the differences be arbitrated, the proposition came to them as a great surprise, as they did not believe the union leaders were ready to leave the controversy to a third party at this time.

That the operators will accept the miners' proposal as submitted is not generally believed; in fact, it is intimated they may flatly refuse the offer, on the ground that existing conditions are the result of arbitration. The employers have decided to consider the miners' latest move and promise to give President Mitchell and his men an answer on Monday, when another meeting of the two sub-committees will be held in this city.

The anthracite board of conciliation consists of six members—three representing the operators and three the miners. This board held frequent sessions during the last three years, settling local disputes in the anthracite region. The award of the strike commission provided that, when it could not agree, a Federal judge in the Third judicial district should appoint an umpire, who should make a decision. Judge George Gray, president of the strike commission, made the appointments. During the first two years he selected Carroll D. Wright, ex-United States commissioner of labor, as the umpire, but during the last year Charles P. Neill, the present labor commissioner, acted as the arbiter.

FURIOUS WITH FOREIGNERS.

Chinese Excited by Picture of Magistrate Killed by Priest.

Pekin, April 6.—The Nanchang affair of February last, during which a Chinese magistrate met death as the result of a dispute with French Catholic missionaries which caused a riot and the killing of a number of French and British missionaries, continues to inflame the Chinese. The native papers in the north of China this week print pictures of the magistrate's corpse, showing his wounds, with sensational articles written in a style which appeals to the lower classes, exhorting the people not to forget the outrages and to prepare to defend themselves against foreign brutalities.

The belief that a French priest murdered the magistrate is universal and probably no other incident ever excited such widespread resentment against the missionaries. In many places the Catholic converts and the other Chinese are living on the basis of armed neutrality, and but for the presence of the troops stationed near the missions by the government's orders, the slightest friction would result in massacre.

Disturbance in Coal Field.

Philadelphia, April 6.—The situation in the coal fields remains unchanged. Occasional disturbances are reported from various sections, but they are regarded as inconsequential. As a result of the attacks made on the breakers of the Fernwood colliery, the Erie, company, which owns the land occupied by the mineworkers, has ordered them to vacate the property. The miners are said to have shot out nearly every window in the breaker.

A detail of state police today arrested seven Italian laborers at Mocanaqua, near Wilkesbarre, who yesterday prevented non-union men from operating the West End washery. They were sent to jail.

Wants All Railroads Appraised.

Washington, April 6.—By unanimous vote today the National association of Railway commissioners adopted the resolution of B. H. Meyer, of Wisconsin, offered yesterday, declaring it to be the sense of the association that the congress of the United States should authorize and direct the Interstate Commerce commission, or some other department of the Federal government, to ascertain the inventory value of all railways in the United States, and to fix a valuation on the railway property of each state separately.

Will Build Island for Fort.

Washington, April 6.—The creation of an artificial island in the middle of the entrance to Chesapeake bay is proposed by the joint board on coast defense, as an absolute essential to the defense of the National capital and the cities of Baltimore, Norfolk, Newport News and even Richmond. The government will dump stone on the middle ground as foundation for a fort.

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