

DOINGS OF OUR NATIONAL BODY OF LAWMAKERS

Monday, May 28.

Washington, May 28.—The senate today sent the railroad rate bill to conference, listened to a long defense by Kittredge of a sea level canal and three Democratic speeches on the resolution in relation to the purchase of canal supplies in foreign markets, and devoted the remainder of its time to the postoffice appropriation bill.

No objection was made to the appointment of ranking members of the interstate commerce committee as conferees on the rate bill, and they were not instructed in any manner. They are Elkins, Cullom and Tillman.

Washington, May 28.—Early in the session of the house today Williams, Miss., the floor leader of the minority, made the point that there was no quorum present, and it took a call of the house to start the wheels of legislation. After the appearance of a quorum, the house concurred in amendments made by the senate to a number of house bills. The house resolved itself into a "city council" for the consideration of bills relating to the District of Columbia.

The compulsory education bill for the district occupied most of the day, being finally placed on its passage. On a division, the absence of a quorum was disclosed. Williams made the point of no quorum, and a call of the house ensued, the yeas and nays being called on the passage of the bill.

Saturday, May 26.

Washington, May 26.—During the course of a listless day's legislation on the diplomatic and consular bill in the house today, Champ Clark, of Missouri, stated that he had heard whisperings that the Chinese exclusion law was to be modified to affect all classes of Chinese, with the exception of coolie labor. He gave notice, that, if there was any such intention on the part of the majority, he would fight such a change to the last ditch; that he had been somewhat instrumental in putting the Chinese exclusion law on the statute books, and that for one he would not agree to its modification.

Under general debate, the house having met at 11 o'clock for further consideration of the diplomatic bill, speeches were made by a number of members and this subject took a wide range, from pensioning the Missouri militia to the rate bill.

Friday, May 25.

Washington, May 25.—The senate today passed the agricultural appropriation bill, carrying an appropriation of \$7,800,000, and, without a word of debate or an objection from any source, added to it as an amendment the bill providing for an inspection of fresh meats intended for domestic consumption.

A number of other bills were passed. The sea level Panama canal bill was made the unfinished business.

The message of the house, declining to accept the senate amendments to the railroad rate bill was received, but the senate conferees were not named. The senate adjourned until Monday.

Washington, May 25.—In the house of representatives today the question of veracity was raised between Cooper, of Wisconsin, and Hepburn, of Iowa, over a conversation in which the latter is alleged to have participated with a member of the senate and in which, Cooper asserted, the member of the house and the senator referred to agreed that the so-called express company amendment to the railroad rate bill should not remain in the bill.

The house was turbulent during the consideration of the rule sending the rate bill to conference, the fear of many members being that the rule, which disagreed to the senate amendments en bloc, might have an influence on the conferees and give them an opportunity, if they so desired, to vote out the express company amendment, the amendment relating to pipe lines and the sleeping-car amendment.

Thursday, May 24.

Washington, May 24.—The senate entered today upon the consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill. Hale criticised the provision permitting the secretary of agriculture to extend to 30 days the fortnight's leave now allowed to employees outside the city of Washington, expressing the opinion that the practice is growing rapidly, and that it will soon extend to all the postoffices of the country if not checked. He spoke of the general demand for government employment, saying that such employees became "a hungry, persistent band of mendicants," and that congress is dragged, importuned and browbeaten by the demands of this organized band of subordinates. Hale referred to the possibility of pensioning government employees.

The free alcohol bill was passed by the senate practically as it came from the house.

Washington, May 24.—Speaker Cannon, with the memory of yesterday's proceedings in his mind, took a new tack today when the house of representatives met, by sending word to Curtis, of Kansas, to raise the point of "no quorum" when a division was demanded by Williams, of Mississippi, on the vote to resume consideration of the diplomatic and consular bill. Mr. Curtis made the point of "no quorum," taking the wind out of Williams' sails, the "call of the house" proceeding under Republican demand instead of on the demand of the leader of the minority. A quorum was present, the vote being, Yeas 222, nays 21, present 19.

Wednesday, May 23.

Washington, May 23.—In addition to passing a half dozen bills to which no objection was made, the senate devoted its entire session today to the immigration bill, which was passed just before the hour of adjournment. The major portion of the discussion was devoted to the provision for supplying information concerning the different sections of the country to newly arrived immigrants.

The bill consists of a series of amendments to the existing law, all of them intended to permit stricter regulations for keeping out the defective classes of aliens. The head tax is increased from \$2 to \$5.

An amendment requiring an educational test for immigrants and also requiring that no immigrant carrying less than \$25 should be admitted was presented by Simmons, who spoke in support of it. Lodge offered a substitute confining the test to an educational requirement and providing that no alien more than 16 years of age who cannot read in some language shall be admitted except members of the families of male adults now residing in the United States. Simmons accepted the substitute and it was adopted.

Washington, May 23.—When the house met today an unusual scene occurred. Williams, the minority leader, demanded the yeas and nays on a motion of Adams, of Pennsylvania, to go into committee of the whole for the further consideration of the diplomatic and consular bill. This was refused, the speaker holding that one-fifth of the members present had not risen to demand the yeas and nays.

"I demand that the other side be taken," called out Williams.

The speaker refused to take the negative on a rising vote, stating that but a short time before it had been demonstrated that a quorum was present, 195.

Then Williams thundered out a protest against the speaker's ruling.

An attempt to secure order was in vain, and, leaving Williams standing, the speaker left the desk, and Curtis, of Kansas, took his place, as chairman of the committee of the whole, and in a general debate the bill was discussed.

Tuesday, May 22.

Washington, May 22.—The senate today devoted the greater part of the session to consideration of the immigration bill, but before it was taken up McCumber made a personal statement, contradicting an article printed in the New York Tribune that the railroad rate bill had been so amended at his instance as to render it ineffective.

Previous to that time also the senate adopted a resolution directing the committee on privileges and elections to consider the course to be pursued in the case of Burton.

Speeches on the immigration bill were made by Dillingham, McCreary, Bacon, Scott, Patterson and others. The bill was still under consideration when the senate adjourned.

Washington, May 22.—For an hour or more today the house of representatives could not decide whether to go into committee of the whole on the diplomatic and consular bill, or to follow the lead of Gardner of Massachusetts to take up consideration of the immigration bill.

The senate bill authorizing the construction of a dam across the Pend d'Oreille river in the state of Washington was passed.

American Court in China.

Washington, May 28.—The house committee on foreign affairs today favorably reported a bill by Representative Denby, identical with the bill presented to the senate by Senator Fulton, creating a United States district court for China, to have exclusive jurisdiction in all proceedings which now come under the jurisdiction of American consuls. The court is to sit at Shanghai, Canton, Tien Tsin and Hankan. The bill authorizes the appointment of a judge, district attorney, marshal and clerk.

May Not Confirm.

Washington, May 28.—In the light of the attitude assumed by the senate subcommittee on judiciary, it is quite probable that William C. Bristol will not be confirmed at this session as district attorney for Oregon. The subcommittee is not favorable to Bristol's confirmation, yet does not go to the extent of recommending the rejection of his nomination. It will probably make no report to the full committee, which means that the committee will not report to the senate and no action will be taken before the adjournment.

ZULUS GAIN FORCE.

British Fear That Another Great War May Come in South Africa.

Pretoria, May 25.—The garrison here has been ordered to prepare to take the field, and it is understood that similar orders have been sent to every commandant of British troops in South Africa. The situation in Natal is growing more and more serious daily and advices received from the troops that are operating against Bambata show that he is receiving reinforcements from nearly every tribe in Zululand.

Arms and ammunition are also being sent to him, and all efforts of the colonial authorities to put a stop to this traffic have proved futile. Zulu spies are everywhere and are apparently able to keep the leaders posted as to field plans, as no sooner is a trap set for the rebels than they escape from it. They have also captured several convoys.

The fact that the colonial troops have been unable to make any headway against the rebels, and that British regulars are to be called on, indicates how serious the situation is. The authorities are hardly in a position at present to enter into a great Zulu war, and it is understood that they will bend every effort to crush Bambata within the next few days. All the regular troops that can be spared are to take the field against him, while the colonials will act with them and will also try to prevent any other Zulu tribes from reaching Bambata until he can be crushed.

ADMIT THEY GOT REBATES.

Favored Merchants Testify Against Burlington Road.

Kansas City, May 25.—Testimony of unusual interest was brought out this afternoon in the United States court in the trial of George H. Crosby, traffic manager of the Burlington railway; George L. Thomas, of New York, a freight broker, and L. B. Taggart, his clerk, on a charge of conspiracy in rebating railroad rates.

The principal witnesses were George A. Barton, of Barton Brothers' Shoe Company; George W. Taylor, of Robert Keith Furniture Company; E. W. Freyschlag, of the Freyschlag Mercantile Company, all of this city, and Walter Kelby, of New York, clerk in 1904 and 1905 for Thomas.

The testimony showed that the firms mentioned received large sums of money from mysterious sources after freight bills had been paid; sometimes in express packages, always from New York, but none knew who sent it. On the stand Freyschlag frankly referred to an agreement with Thomas whereby his firm was to receive 25 per cent rebate on freight bills, and told how the money was deposited in New York to the firm's credit by one Jackson, whom he did not know.

He could not remember whether he or Thomas had suggested the use of the name. At first he said that the idea was his, but on cross-examination he changed and said that he could not remember. He admitted that the name was used to hide "this business," a term all the witnesses today employed.

EARTHQUAKE WRECKS CITY.

Immense Loss of Life at Unianka, Mongolia.

Victoria, B. C., May 25.—Mail advices from the Orient state that an earthquake causing great loss of life and considerable damage to property occurred at the beginning of May at Unianka and vicinity, in Mongolia. The Pekin Times reports that a chasm several feet wide was caused by the earthquake.

The walled city of Unianka was almost completely destroyed, the loss of life being very heavy. Officials at Pekin had received news that the calamity was of exceptional severity and arrangements were being made for the relief of the people in distress.

Severe shocks are also reported from Fokien province of China, the most disastrous in Chuen Chou prefecture, where many buildings were destroyed; the loss of life was unknown.

Credit Without Limit.

Seattle, May 25.—Frank J. Bentley, traffic manager of the Illinois Steel company and a member of the delegation sent out by the steel trust to investigate conditions at San Francisco, arrived in this city last night on his way east, and states that, as a result of the investigation, 90 per cent of the steel consumers of San Francisco will be extended unlimited credit in the rebuilding of that city. In the report of the investigation it is estimated that 250,000 tons of steel will be used in a period extending over five years.

Hermann's Trial in June.

Washington, May 25.—The trial of Representative Hermann is now scheduled to take place in this city between June 5 and 10, unless some unforeseen obstacle should arise. Francis J. Heney has notified District Attorney Baker that he will come back to Washington to conduct the prosecution. It is probable the case will be disposed of in three or four days.

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