

BRIEF REPORT OF THE DAILY WORK OF NATION'S LAWMAKERS

Washington, April 6.—Violating several precedents, LaFollette today introduced a resolution in the senate for a new investigation of the Lorimer bribery charges.

It is contrary to precedent to reopen a case of this kind once decided. It is also contrary to precedent to name the members of the investigating committee on the resolution appointing it. It is a further violation of precedent to appoint only new members of the senate on such a committee.

La Follette proposed that the committee be composed of Works, of California; Townsend, of Michigan; McLean, of Connecticut; Kern, of Indiana, and Pomerene, of Ohio. Of these the first two are insurgents, the last two Democrats and McLean is a regular. It is understood they were selected at an insurgent conference.

The resolution recites the action of the senate last session, when a resolution to declare the seat of Senator Lorimer vacant because of alleged corruption of the Illinois legislature which had elected him, was defeated. The resolution recites:

"It appears from the published reports of the proceedings of the said Illinois state senate committee, that witnesses who were not called and sworn by the committee of this senate appointed to investigate said charges, have appeared before the said committee of the Illinois state senate and on being interrogated, have given important material testimony tending to prove that \$100,000 was corruptly expended to secure the election of William Lorimer to the United States senate."

The fight will begin at the outset, for the Lorimer senators will move to refer the resolution to the committee on privileges and elections, of which Dillingham, a Lorimer man, is chairman, in the hope that it will be smothered there.

Washington, April 5.—President Taft transmitted to congress a message urging early action on the reciprocity agreement with Canada. He said that he sent this message in deference to popular sentiment and in duty to the great masses of the American people. The message follows:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives: I transmitted to the Sixty-first Congress on January 26 last, the text of the reciprocity trade agreement which had been negotiated under my direction by the Secretary of State with the representatives of the Dominion of Canada."

"This agreement was the consummation of earnest effort, extending over a period of nearly a year, on the part of both governments to effect a trade arrangement which, supplementing as it did, the amicable settlement of various questions of a diplomatic and political character that had been reached, would mutually promote commerce and would strengthen the friendly relations now existing."

"The agreement in its intent and the terms was purely economic and commercial. While the general subject was under discussion by the commissioners, I felt assured that the sentiment of the people of the United States was such that they would welcome a measure which would result in the increase of trade on both sides of the boundary line, would open up the reserve productive resources of Canada to the great mass of our own consumers on advantageous conditions, and at the same time offer a broader outlet for the excess product of our farms and many of our industries."

"Details regarding a negotiation of this kind necessarily could not be made public while the conferences were pending. When, however, the full text of the agreement, accompanying correspondence and data, explaining both its purpose and its scope, became known to the people through the message transmitted to Congress, it was immediately apparent that the ripened fruits of the careful labors of the commissioners met with widespread approval. This approval has been strengthened by further consideration of the terms of the agreement in all their particulars. The volume of support which has developed shows that its broad national scope is fully appreciated and is responsive to the popular will."

"The House of Representatives of the 61st Congress, after the full text of the arrangement, with all the details in regard to the different provisions, had been laid before it, as they were before the American people, passed a bill confirming the agreement as negotiated and as transmitted to Congress."

"This measure failed of action in the Senate. In my transmitting message of January 26 I fully set forth the character of agreement and emphasized its appropriateness and necessity as a response to the mutual needs of the people of the two countries, as well as its common advantages. I now lay that message and the reciprocity trade agreement as part of the present message before the 62d Congress, and again invite earnest attention to the consideration therein expressed."

"I am constrained, in deference to popular sentiment and with a realizing sense of my duty to the great mass of our people, whose welfare is involved, to urge on your consideration early action on this agreement."

"In concluding the negotiations, the representatives of the two countries bound themselves to use their utmost efforts to bring about the tariff changes provided for in the agreement by concurrent legislation at Washington and Ottawa."

"I have felt it my duty, therefore, not to acquiesce in relegation of action until the opening of the Congress in December, but to use my constitutional prerogative and convoke the 62d Congress in extra session in order that there shall be no break of continuity in considering and acting upon this most important subject."

Washington, April 4.—The Sixty-

second congress met in extraordinary session today. What the session will bring forth, or when it will adjourn, were matters of conjecture here.

The Democrats took possession of the house and put Champ Clark in the speaker's chair. In his speech accepting the honor he warned the Democratic members that the eyes of the country were upon them; that the party was on trial, and that it had an opportunity for the first time in 16 years to prove its worthiness for a still higher expression of confidence.

Throughout the day the shadow of the coming presidential fight hovered about the capitol, and there is no question but that the maneuvers for political advantage will play an important part in the affairs of the house and senate in the next few months.

William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, and Governor Harmon, of Ohio, were leading figures on the floor of the house. Had Governor Woodrow Wilson been present, the list of generally accepted Democratic presidential possibilities would have been complete.

The senate's opening was sedate as usual. And while the leadership of the upper branch remains in Republican hands, the change in the personnel was almost as marked as in the house. Aldrich, Hale, Beveridge and others of both the regular and progressive factions were missed.

President Taft's message, dealing with Canadian reciprocity, will be read in congress tomorrow. The Democrats of the house, however, have formulated an ambitious program, which includes the revision of schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff laws.

Republican leaders of the senate have announced there shall be no tariff legislation. They declare they are not alarmed at the threat of the Democrats to hold back reciprocity until action is secured on tariff bills. This difference promises soon to bring the two branches into conflict. A legislative deadlock is predicted, and the length of the session seems to depend on how long the Democratic house will bombard the Republican senate with general legislation bills.

From a political standpoint it is likely that one of the most important things the Democratic house will do will be to order an investigation of the departments and branches of the government service. The Democrats say there have been no such investigations for 20 years, and that a saving to the people will result.

The house session was devoted to the work of organization. The adoption of the new rules was put over until tomorrow. The Republicans will make their first fight on these. They resent the action of the Democrats in increasing the membership committees without increasing the percentage of minority representation.

The Republican insurgents in the house indicated their purpose to act independently by declining to vote for Mann for speaker, and by giving their support to Cooper of Wisconsin.

The insurgents gained a member when Aikin of New York, elected as an "independent Democrat" and heretofore carried on the Democratic rolls, cast his lot with them and chose a seat on the Republican side.

Berger of Wisconsin, the only Socialist in the house, voted "present" in the speakership balloting. He also chose a seat on the Republican side.

The drawing for seats attracted interest. Because of their large majority it was necessary for 30 Democrats to pre-empt a strip of seats on the Republican side. Four of these are committee chairmen, while four others are members of the all-powerful committee on ways and means and committee on committees.

When the Republicans found it necessary to invade the Democratic side, their section was known as the Cherokee strip. Burleson, of Texas, today christened the Democratic section on the Republican side as the "Pan-handle."

STEEL TRUST BID LOWEST.

Corporation Gets Contract for Building Six Panama Emergency Dams.

Washington.—The United States Steel corporation was the lowest bidder for the construction of six emergency dams to be erected on the Panama canal. Bids for this work were opened at the Isthmian canal commission offices here.

The steel company's bid was \$2,238,987, while the bid of the McClintock-Marshall Construction company, of Pittsburgh, were \$40,000 higher. The third bid by the Pennsylvania Steel company was \$165,000 higher than the lowest bid. Two of the emergency dams will be located at the Miraflores locks, two at Gatun and two at Pedro Miguel.

Initiative Decision to Be Published.

Washington.—Senator Brown of Nebraska, secured an order in the senate to print, as a public document, the decision of the Supreme court of Oregon in the case of Frank Kiernan against the City of Portland, involving the legality of the Oregon initiative and referendum act.

WAR WOULD BE FOLLY.

For Japan to Attack United States Would Be Suicide.

San Francisco.—In an address before the Commonwealth club, Baron de Estournelles de Constant, the distinguished French scholar who has been advocating the cause of international conciliation during an extended tour of this country, declared that "war with Japan would be not only a crime, but folly, with no end, no result, except revolution and ruin."

The text of his address was "War or Peace With Japan."

"Let us suppose," he said, "that the United States, following an unfortunate inspiration, attack Japan and are victorious; this victory would be of no use. Japan would remain inaccessible and even stronger than before, standing upon her rights against an unjust aggression. She would be supported by the national feeling of her people and the exalted solidarity of Asia; no civilized nation could abstain from approving her resistance."

"But, supposing now the reverse, and in a moment of complete folly that Japan attacked the United States. This attack would be, for Japan, a suicide."

"Let us suppose, with the most pessimistic alarmist, that Japan, starting a policy of imperialism and megalomania, would try to monopolize the Pacific ocean, claiming Asia for the Asiatic. It would be the beginning of her decadence and the end of her power."

"Acting against the United States, taking by surprise or by force the Philippines, the Hawaiian islands, she would open, at the same time the era of a general reversion against Europe. She could not stop; she would threaten Great Britain, Singapore as well as Shanghai, France, Saigon, as well as Hanoi, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Australia, too—that is to say, all the world. It is very much to do for one nation."

"And where would she find money for experimenting in the Pacific this Napoleonic policy of a universal blockade? And what would become of her industry, of her agriculture, of her commerce, of her art, of her economic leadership in China? It would be the miserable collapse and not the triumph of Japanese imperialism."

"Let us stop this alarmist nonsense and these pessimistic appeals to new expenses for armaments and to empty glory."

"The empire of the sea exists no more; the Pacific ocean will belong to all, as well as the sky belongs to aviation and not to one nation only."

"Let us be confident in the wisdom of the Japanese people and of the Japanese government."

SOCIALIST IS LOSER.

Non-Partisan Is Elected Circuit Judge in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Socialist-Democratic party in Milwaukee city and county was defeated in Tuesday's judicial and school board election.

Incomplete returns from the city show that Circuit Judge Halsey, non-partisan, who was opposed by John Kleist, Socialist-Democrat, has been elected by a plurality estimated at 10,000 votes.

The election was the first real test of the Socialists' power in Milwaukee since they swept everything in the city a year ago and carried several assembly districts and selected a representative in congress last fall.

Women were permitted to vote for school directors only and were handed separate ballots upon which to mark their selections. It is estimated that fully 5,000 women voted.

In several towns outside of Milwaukee Socialists were successful. They captured two aldermanic positions and two county supervisors in Superior and one alderman and a justice of the peace in Racine.

Wausau and Beloit went "wet." Fond du Lac and Janesville elected Democratic mayors and Oskosh elected a Republican.

Roslyn Miners Resume.

Spokane.—The independent mines at Jonesville, in the Roslyn coal mining district in Central Washington, have resumed work, but the men formerly employed by the Northwestern Improvement company are still out and demand a closed shop. Hearing that the workers in the independent mines were to resume work, several hundred miners marched from Roslyn to Jonesville to force the independent employees to reconsider their action. A show of force by the deputies was sufficient to quiet the strikers.

Oregon Plan Rejected.

Concord, N. H.—The state senate Tuesday killed by a vote of 12 to 10 the bill which recently passed the house, adopting the Oregon plan for instructing the legislature as to popular choice for United States senators.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

FIRE DANGER TOLD.

State Official Takes First Step to Save Oregon Timber.

Salem.—Inaugurating the fight against forest fires in Oregon the state forester issued his first ultimatum which he hopes will be reprinted in every newspaper in the state. B. W. Elliott is assisting the state forester until a deputy is selected.

Offices were opened at the capitol and the first move taken was toward warning the people against the danger of starting forest fires.

In his letter to the people of Oregon the forester says:

"Forest fires, one of the greatest sources of destruction to the most valuable resources of the state, will soon be restricted and their terrors largely reduced if the people will co-operate with the state forester in the administration of the new forestry law enacted by the last legislature, which will be ready for distribution in pamphlet form in the near future."

"One of the most important provisions of the law is that making a closed season for burning from June 1 to October 1, during which period out-door fires of all kinds are prohibited except under most stringent regulations and the probability of heavy penalties."

"In this connection the state forester urges upon everyone the necessity of doing all possible burning before the close season begins and thus save the trouble and risk of doing it by permission in the season of greatest danger when fires spread so easily and rapidly. The state forester desires the assistance and co-operation of everyone in the protection of property from forest, grass or brush fires, and to this end invites suggestions and information calculated to assist in any manner in the performance of his most important duties. Copies of the law will be furnished promptly to all who desire them. Requests and communications should be addressed 'F. A. Elliott, State Forester, Capitol, Salem,' and will receive prompt and appreciative attention."

"As the dry season approaches, timber owners in Oregon are making preparations for more effective work than ever before in preventing damage by forest fires," said C. S. Chapman, secretary and manager of the Oregon Fire association.

"One way in which many owners are preparing for the danger period is by burning, during this spell of dry weather, slashings, fern patches and places where fires can easily be started a little later."

"Nothing can be more important than that such work be taken up while heavy rains can be counted on coming to extinguish any smoldering logs or snags before the dry summer months arrive. With these places eliminated and good patrols maintained, the state should, next summer, make an enviable record."

ONTARIO SCENTS LINE.

Condemnation Suits Pointed to as Oregon-Eastern Move.

Ontario.—That work is to be commenced on the extension of the Oregon Eastern Railroad, known as the Harriman line, through the Malheur Canyon to Central Oregon, is evidenced by the commencement of condemnation suits against owners of the Cascade wagon road grant, for right of way through its lands. The cases will come up in the April term of court, when it is expected that a settlement will be made.

Surveys on the south side of the Snake river from the Oregon Short Line tracks to Homedale show that the new track will strike the Short Line near Arcadia, about seven miles south of Ontario. It is believed that a double track will be laid to the present line used by the branch road running to Brogan, thus making a double track from its connection with the Short Line to Ontario, which will undoubtedly become the division point.

A coal shute is being built at Ontario large enough to hold several cars of coal. It will be operated by hydraulic machinery.

Government Pays \$4,000 for Spring.

Oregon City.—E. P. Dedman of Clackamas, has just sold to the United States six acres known as the Cranfield Spring on which is located the hatchery belonging to the government. This spring has been owned by Mr. Dedman since 1881. It has been leased for the past six years by the government for hatchery purposes, and is considered to be valuable. The price paid for the spring was \$4,000.

Wallows Plans Stock Show.

Wallawa.—Efforts are being made to hold a livestock and poultry show in Wallawa this spring. With it will be an auction day for the exchange of livestock and farm products and a general market day may result. Mayor Morelock promises to make definite announcements within a few days.

STATE CAN'T STOP EXCHANGE.

Land Reverts to Government if Irrigation is Not Carried Out.

Salem.—Having been unable through state legislation to accomplish the object, Wellington G. Howell & Co., during the closing hours of the late congress, succeeded in having a law enacted by which this company is permitted to exchange 8,793 acres of timber land that it had acquired in a school section at present lying within a national forest reserve for about 9,560 acres of land that had been reserved from entry by the United States government and which was awarded to a Portland company under contract with the state of Oregon to reclaim under the Carey act.

The interests of the Portland company were afterwards purchased by Wellington G. Howell & Co. The 9,560 acres that are to be exchanged for the school lands lie in the Malheur valley, about 20 miles south and east of Burns and about 10 miles from Lake Malheur. The Wellington interests acquired the school base, which they exchanged for the arid lands in Malheur county, through purchase, not getting it directly, from the state.

For it they paid from \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre. There are various estimates as to the value of the Malheur valley tract, though it is the opinion of State Engineer Lewis that it cannot successfully be irrigated. It was the plan of the Portland company to irrigate by sinking wells, but no work was ever done by that company.

FRUIT PEST SQUAD STARTS.

Many Important Points to Have O. A. C. Stations.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.—A general siege against fruit pests of every description is now being arranged by the experts of this college. Within the next week or two six men will be employed to go to various sections of the state and take up this work.

This general fight against the pests of fruit crops was authorized by the last legislature at the investigation of the fruitgrowers of the state. It will be carried on entirely under the direction of the departments of plant pathology, entomology and horticulture of this institution. Headquarters will be established in the various fruit sections of the state. It has already been decided to establish one at Salem, and others will probably be located at Roseburg, Portland, Eugene and possibly Milton. The work, however, will all be directed from the college.

The details have not been determined upon, but are now being carefully worked out. The plans will probably be completed within the next week or two. Professors Cordley, Lewis and Jackson, who have general charge of the work, are confident that it will result in saving many thousands of dollars to the fruit growers.

Vale Reads Riot Act.

Vale.—Much perturbed over delays and various complications in the new water system being constructed at an expense of slightly over \$100,000 and begun nine months ago, the Vale city officials have given the American Light & Water company, of Kansas City, until May 1 to put the system in working shape. The firm is under \$100,000 bonds. A telegram has been sent City Engineer W. P. Bullock at Kansas City to send all maps, plans and contracts of the system. Bullock is drawing pay for supervising the work, but has not been here since it started and the council is debating whether to dispense with his services. When Engineer Oakes was appointed by the council a few weeks ago to look over the system and locate the source of trouble, no maps, plans or contracts could be found. Since then the bonds of the contractors have been located but other valuable papers are still missing.

Work Begins on Bridge.

Madras.—Work has commenced on the foundations for the big Harriman bridge across Willow creek gorge on the western edge of town. Large quantities of materials—cement, etc., a concrete mixer, donkey engine and equipment are already on the ground, while the excavation for the concrete bases for the four steel towers that are to support the bridge is being done.

Wheat Helped By Snow.

Condon.—Condon was visited by a snow of about two inches Monday night and people were jubilant over it because of the big benefit to the farmers who have grain sown. Not enough can be said of the benefits derived from snow falling this time of the year on ground that is planted to grain, as it receives nearly every bit of moisture in that form.

Will Irrigate 1,000 Acres.

Ontario.—The Ontario Townsite company has ordered the machinery, motors and pumps, costing over \$8,000, to irrigate 1,000 acres of land adjoining town. The work will be completed this spring.