

BRIEF REPORT OF THE DAILY WORK OF NATION'S LAWMAKERS

Washington, April 27.—A sensation was sprung in the house today, when Gardner, of Massachusetts, introduced resolutions of inquiry in response to a charge by Diffendorfer of Pennsylvania, that money and influence were being used to give an Eastern manufacturing concern a monopoly in the contracts for shoes for the army and navy.

Diffendorfer said he could prove his assertion, and as a result Gardner called upon the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy for all possible information concerning the shoe contracts.

Diffendorfer interrupted Gardner in his speech on the free list bill yesterday while discussing government prices for army shoes. "Is it not a fact," he asked, "that Herman & Co., of Boston, absolutely control, after freezing out every other competitor in the United States, the manufacture of shoes for the army and navy of the United States?" Gardner said that he had never heard of such a firm.

"I shall be at liberty, then, in the near future," Diffendorfer said, "to show to the gentleman that they have absolute control of the shoes manufactured in this country for the army and navy, and that they have frozen out competitors that I know of who have lost out and today are bankrupt, owing to the fact that this firm of Herman & Co. has used its influence with the representatives of the United States, or those in control of the United States government have used their influence, to freeze out competitors and have placed them on the black list, so to speak, and have even gone so far as to give money so that other firms may not be competitors after freezing them out."

Washington, Apr. 27.—A bill providing for the enlargement of the national house of representatives from 391 to 433 members and the apportionment of these members to the different states on the basis of the population shown by the recent Federal census passed the house early this evening after vain efforts of members of both political parties to amend it.

The proposed size of the house is identical with that provided for in the Crumpacker bill passed by the house at the last session of congress, but not acted upon by the senate. The Houston bill, passed today, leaves to the legislatures of the different states the power to rearrange the congressional districts in their respective states on the new population basis of one member for each 211,877 inhabitants.

The two important amendments proposed and defeated today were to put the re-districting power in the hand of the governors of states when the legislature had failed to act; and to limit the house in the future to a membership of 430 or 433, leaving future reapportionments to the secretary of commerce and labor. Each amendment was vigorously championed by the Republicans and had some Democratic support.

Washington, April 26.—After a day of caucuses, conferences and secret meetings, in which the Democrats of the "progressive" Republicans of the senate were blocked by the regular senators, the two factions tonight are resting on their arms.

Whether the fight of the "progressives" for more appointments to committees of importance will be transferred to the senate floor rests with a meeting of the progressives in the morning.

The skirmish began in the meeting of the Republican committee on committees early in the day. Ballinger reported the list of committees.

Immediately La Follette objected, insisting that the "progressives" were being treated "unjustly and unfairly." He said he would reserve the right to oppose further in his own time. The Ballinger list was adopted, the four insurgents voting no.

Washington, April 27.—Victor Berger, of Milwaukee, the Socialist member of congress, in a resolution introduced today, not only proposes to abolish the senate, but aims to strike from the hand of the president the veto power and take from the courts authority to invalidate legislation enacted by the house of representatives. All this is proposed as an amendment to the constitution, which, if petitioned for by 5 per cent of the voters in each state, shall be submitted to a general referendum.

"The senate has run its course," said Mr. Berger, after his threatening document had been dropped into the hopper on the speaker's desk.

"It must some day, as with the British house of lords, yield to the popular demand for its reformation or abolition."

Congress May Discuss Arrests.

Washington, D. C.—With a view to determining whether any Federal law was violated in the arrest of J. J. McNamara in connection with the Los Angeles Times explosion, Representative Korbly, of Indiana, telegraphed to Indianapolis, asking for all the facts. Mr. Korbly has been urged by labor constituents in Indiana to lay the matter before congress.

Washington, April 26.—The Democratic free list bill, characterized by the Republicans as "political soothing syrup," was roughly handled in the house this afternoon by the Republican side.

Underwood, Democratic chairman of the ways and means committee, introduced it in an hour's speech, shortly after the session convened at noon. It is now left to the mercies of Mann, of Illinois, leader of the Republican side, and what Mann said about it in the two hours he held the floor gave both sides food for much debate, comment and criticism.

Underwood, in explaining the proposed measure, acknowledged that it would mean a reduction in government revenues by at least \$10,000,000 a year, but declared that this would be more than met by government economies.

"This free list bill is not offered as a compensation to the farmer for products of his that were put on the free list in the reciprocity bill," said Underwood, "because we do not believe the passage of the reciprocity bill will in any way affect the farmers' income. One of the objects of this bill is to remove from the protected list those implements that the farmer uses in producing his crops. The other purpose is to reduce the cost of living to the masses by putting their food products on the free list."

Underwood announced that this was only the beginning of the Democratic revision of the tariff.

"We propose to revise the tariff schedule by schedule," he said. "That, in our opinion, is the only proper way to handle the tariff question in congress. The Democratic party does not stand for the wiping out of the custom houses; we realize that the expenses of government must be borne by a judicious system of duties. But by lowering and adjusting prohibitive duties we can fully maintain the amount of customs revenues."

Underwood charged the Republicans with making the Payne tariff law so that it left a tariff on everything that the farmer used, while reducing many of his protective duties.

The minority report, signed by all of the Republicans on the ways and means committee, declares that the measure represents a "transparent attempt at the manufacture of political capital." It asserts that congress was called together specifically to pass the Canadian reciprocity bill.

"The interests of the farmer and of everybody else will be subserved," says the report, "if the country is spared further exploitation and further tariff legislation at the present time and if adjournment is taken promptly after the reciprocity bill shall have been finally acted on."

Washington, April 24.—Despite the fact that high officials of the Navy department have apologized to Professor Beers, of Yale, and his daughter for the slight recently administered in connection with a social affair at Annapolis, congress may make an official investigation of the alleged snubbing at the naval academy and at West Point as well. Apparently Representative Korbly of Indiana and other members of congress who have taken an interest in the incident, are not satisfied with the explanations of the Navy department about "social status" and the like, and some hot words are likely to find utterance on the floors of congress as a result of the form the official apology in the Beers case has taken.

The incident, arising from the snub given Miss Beers at a recent social "hop" at Annapolis, has grown in importance, a circumstance distressing to Navy department officials, who are loath to see anything that tends to create a prejudice against the service.

Miss Beers was taken to the hop at Annapolis by a midshipman, who was subsequently reprimanded for so doing. Miss Beers is employed as governess in the household of Lieutenant Commander William H. Tarrant, U. S. N. Then came the storm.

Following the storm came the apology. Secretary Meyer and the superintendent of the academy saying it was demanded because of a misunderstanding of the "status" of the young woman. In other words, it was found that she was not in "domestic service" as a matter of necessity, but was from a family of "social status." Therefore an apology was unnecessary.

Feud Becomes History.

Washington—With the resignation of Edward C. Finney as chief law officer of the reclamation service, to take effect May 1, practically all the officials of the Interior department whose names figured prominently during the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation, have now severed their connection with the government service.

RIOTERS RULE CANTON.

Americans in Danger—Revolutionists Steal Explosives.

Washington, April 29.—Americans and foreigners in Canton are believed to be in danger, United States Consul Bergholz in Canton cabled the state department today. He has telegraphed the senior naval officer in Hongkong, and if the situation should prove serious, a United States warship will proceed to Canton.

Hongkong, April 29.—Hundreds of persons are fleeing to this city from Canton, where, last night, revolutionists, armed with rifles and bombs, surrounded the Viceroy's palace and set fire to the building before they were driven back by imperial troops in command of Admiral Li. Several were killed on both sides, the imperial forces losing a colonel.

Only official messages were received from Canton, but it was said that the disorders there are spreading, the rioters gaining in numbers and boldness. The gravity of the situation is increased by the report that there is discontent among the imperial soldiery, many of the emperor's enlisted men being anarchists.

The valiant attack of the imperial troops under Li saved the viceroy's palace from destruction. For a time it looked as if the rioters would destroy it. The viceroy escaped unharm. Considerable damage was done to his palace before the fire was extinguished.

It is reported here that the gates of Canton have been closed and that the soldiers are maintaining martial law.

Suspicious persons are being detained and searched.

The enlistments of many imperial soldiers have expired within the last few days, and the ugly demeanor of these men is giving the government concern.

A report that Vice Governor Fu Chi, a Tartar, has been assassinated, has not been confirmed.

It is known that the rebels have seized a quantity of government explosives. The government has asked the steamship companies plying to Canton to suspend their schedules.

One unconfirmed report from Canton says that 300 of the "queens," or revolutionists, have been slain during the riots.

Foreigners in Canton are reported to be perfectly safe.

RECIPROCITY IN CANADA.

Opposition Will Put Up Strong Fight in Parliament.

Ottawa, Ont., April 29.—The determination of the Canadian government to ratify reciprocity was emphasized in parliament today by the prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who declared that he would not go to England and represent Canada at the Imperial conference or to the coronation of King George in June, but would remain here to press the agreement, if the opposition persisted in obstructing its ratification.

The matter was brought before parliament by Opposition Leader Borden, who asked Sir Wilfrid what his intentions were in regard to the approaching events in London.

"I deemed it my duty to attend," replied Sir Wilfrid, "and engaged my passage six weeks ago, but I have come to the conclusion that, should my presence be required in Canada, and there is every indication that it may be, it will be my duty to forego the privilege of attending the conference. My first duty is to Canada."

"It would be unfortunate that any of the prime ministers of the self-governing British dominions should be absent from so important an event as the Imperial conference. If it is not possible for me to go, the fault will not be mine. The one thing which prevents is the position of the trade agreement with the United States."

"Mr. Borden has said he and his followers offer uncompromising opposition to the ratification of the agreement. I may tell him that on this side we offer uncompromising support for the agreement. He thinks it would be a ban to Canada and a possible danger to the empire. We think it would be a boon to Canada and to the empire."

Artists are Conservative.

Paris—The one hundred and twenty-ninth salon of the Society of French artists opened here Saturday. In the opinion of critics, the exhibition has little to distinguish it from those of preceding years, its principal characteristics being the decreased size of the canvases, and the absence of nudités. The whole is markedly conservative in technique and the distinctive work of Henry Martin and Paul Chavis. The contributions of the American artists, Tanner, MacCamaron and MacEwan are notable.

Big Steamship Wrecked.

Madrid—A dispatch received here from Vigo says that a big English steamship, the identity of which has not been established, was wrecked on Cape Villano, on the northwest coast of Galicia. It is not known whether there were any fatalities.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

CATTLE QUARANTINE DUE.

Klamath and Lake County Animals Have Scabies.

Salem—Governor West has been called upon to quarantine the cattle in Klamath and Lake counties unless they have been examined or pronounced free from cattle scab. State Sheep Inspector Lytle declares that unless such quarantine measures are taken it is probable that the Federal government will quarantine the entire state.

Dr. A. D. Melvin, chief of the bureau of animal industries at Washington, D. C., has received word from Dr. H. E. Pinkerton, inspector in charge at Pendleton, Or., for the Federal government, that scabies exist among the cattle.

Dr. Pinkerton reports finding 13,330 cattle diseased in Lake county. These cattle, he reported, became infected through animals brought from California and all the cattle on the open range are exposed.

Sheep Inspector Lytle made an inspection trip through Klamath, Lake and Crook counties, covering the entire district. He says that while conditions are not of a dangerous nature the manner in which cattle have been run in Klamath and Lake counties for the past year, makes practically all animals more or less exposed to cattle mange.

"The winter in the interior of Oregon has been unusually long and severe," Mr. Lytle reports, "and at this time most of the range animals are so thin and weak that they could not be dipped now, owing to their inability to climb out of the dipping vat."

He says a quarantine would not damage the cattle industry to any extent and would be less injurious to the cattle interests than a Federal quarantine. Governor West has not taken action but will probably issue a proclamation soon.

FINE DEPOTS PLANNED.

O.-W. R. & N. to Build Well on Deschutes Line.

Portland—Contracts for the erection of five new passenger stations on the Deschutes line of the O.-W. R. & N. Co. have been awarded to Moore Bros., of Portland, and work on their construction will be started at once.

Three of these structures—one each at Hunts Ferry, Gateway and Madras—will have general dimensions of 24x30 feet, and will be two stories high at one end. It is estimated that they will cost \$4,500 each. The two others will be erected at Fargar and Paxton respectively and will cost about \$2,000 each. They will be 24x70 feet and one story high.

The Hunts Ferry, Gateway and Madras stations will be fitted up with facilities for both freight and passenger service, commodious waiting rooms for the public, offices and several rooms to be used as quarters by the agents.

Although these buildings will be somewhat larger than is demanded by present conditions on the new line, the company has looked into the future and intends that they be in use for five or ten years. They will be modern in every detail and will equal in many ways the stations on the main line.

FOURTH WAREHOUSE NIGH.

Pilot Rock Farmers to Take Over Building in That Town.

Pendleton—Farmers of Umatilla county will soon own their fourth warehouse. Then grain growers of one more section will be able to handle their wheat through their own warehouse. The Pilot Rock local of the Farmers Union, having conducted a \$10,000 general merchandise store successfully in that town for the last year, has taken an option on the Interior Warehouse company's building in that town and expects to close the deal soon.

A stock company will be organized among the members of the union only, but the business of the warehouse will be extended to all growers of grain tributary to that town. A charge sufficient to cover the expense of maintaining the warehouse will be made and this will be the same to members as non-members of the union. The building to be acquired is one of the best and most modern storage warehouses in the county. It has a capacity of 80,000 sacks of wheat and is only two years old. Warehouses are now owned and operated by the farmers at Adams, Helix and Echo and the growers believe they are thereby saving several hundred dollars annually.

Asparagus Now on Market.

Springfield—Asparagus is on the market from the George B. Dorris asparagus farm near Springfield. The season is 15 days later than it was a year ago. This is due to cold weather. The Dorris asparagus farm ships canned asparagus to all parts of the country and has become a very important Lane county industry.

BOYS TO MAKE TRAPNESTS.

Manual Training Teacher of Portland Asks Plans to Follow.

Corvallis—Prof. Dryden of the O. A. C. poultry department has just received a request from William J. Stanley, supervisor of manual training at the Holladay school of Portland, for the plans and specifications of the trapnest which Prof. Dryden designed and included in the college exhibit at the Seattle exposition.

"The Lents and Arleta section of Portland are very much interested in the chicken business," says Mr. Stanley, "so I will start the boys of the manual training department making chicken furniture. The trapnest shown by your college at the Seattle exposition was a very good model. Will you kindly let me have sketches or drawings?"

Though scores of trapnests have been invented and patented, not all have been as thoroughly tested as the one originated by the college, which is not patented, so anyone may get the plans and build one without fear of prosecution. It is extremely simple in construction, and can be made by any one who can use a saw and drive a nail. The whole thing can be cut from one board a foot wide, ten feet long, and an inch thick.

The trapnest is in the form of a box open at one end, with a door which closes as the hen enters. After she has laid, she is released by an attendant who takes the number on her leg band and marks it on the egg. Thus the owner may know which hens are the ones that lay the eggs, so he can eliminate from the flock those which do not lay enough eggs to pay for their care.

TRY DRY ALFALFA FARMING.

A. F. Hitt Gives Some Advice to Eastern Oregon Dwellers.

Farmers of Eastern Oregon are urged to develop dry farming alfalfa by A. F. Hitt, special field agent for Oregon, Washington and Idaho of the bureau of statistics of the United States department of agriculture.

Mr. Hitt says the plan is being successfully adopted in the Idaho districts where the rainfall is only between 3 and 9 inches. He believes, therefore, that there is no reason why it should not be equally profitable in Central Oregon, where the rainfall is much greater.

In discussing the matter with J. J. Sayer, who is now touring Eastern Oregon gathering information for the Portland Commercial club, on the resources and conditions of that particular part of the state, Mr. Hitt stated that the farmer who will try this plan conscientiously will make a profit in two ways. In the first place, he pointed out, he will get a good crop of hay and in the second place the growing of alfalfa will restore to fertility lands worn out by constant croppings with wheat.

RAILROADS RACE TO COAST.

Hill System and Southern Pacific Are Rushing Work.

Grants Pass.—From best inside information obtainable, there is apparently a race on to the coast between the Hill system from Eagle Point to Crescent City via Grants Pass, and the Southern Pacific system from Eureka, Cal., to Grants Pass.

Information comes that heavy construction equipment and a large force of mules and scrapers is unloading at Eureka for the Southern Pacific. Chalks of the Grants Pass yards have been made at Portland. The Southern Pacific has had options on lots from the right of way at Grants Pass to Rogue River for several months. All are reported accepted and the money paid for them.

Coos Oil Test Goes On.

Marshfield—The well of the Miocene Oil & Gas company which is being sunk at Bear creek, near Bandon, promises well, according to the reports of those interested. Drilling has been stopped temporarily pending the arrival of more machinery ordered from San Francisco, but the work will be resumed in a few days and it is expected that before many weeks the well will determine whether there is a big supply of oil in the neighborhood. The company was formed by Bandon men with local capital and experts were employed to do the work. The company holds oil leases on large tracts. It has always been believed there was oil in Coos county, but this is the first effort to find it that has been carried to any extent.

Sawmill Machinery Arrives.

Eugene—The first carload of machinery for the new sawmill plant of the Rose Lumber company has arrived and is being rushed from here by freighters. The Rose Lumber company has 60 acres of saw timber near Coburg, which will be manufactured into railroad ties and yard stock during the summer. It is putting in a mill with a daily capacity of 30,000 feet.