

COMPANIES MUST PAY TAX

Their Turn to Lick Stamps on Express Receipts.

REVENUE BILL IS AMENDED.

Rate on Beer is Fixed at \$1.00 Per Barrel. Debate on the Measure is Closed—Committee Suffers Two Signal Defeats—Proceedings in the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The house yesterday adjourned without disposing of more than half the war revenue reduction bill. General debate closed at 2 o'clock, after which the bill was opened to amendments under the five-minute rule. A determined effort was made to reduce still further the tax on beer below the committee rate of \$1.00 a barrel, but the ways and means committee overwhelmed the opposition. The committee, however, sustained two signal defeats. In connection with the beer tax Payne offered an amendment in the language of the bill passed by the house last session designed to abolish the use of small beer packages, one-sixteenth and one-eighth barrels, but it was defeated by 85 to 94, after charges that its purpose was to crush out the small brewers. Another defeat occurred in connection with the amendment offered by Henry C. Smith (Mich.) The bill abolished the one cent stamp tax on express receipts and telegraph messages, but retained the tax on railroad and steamship freight receipts. Smith's amendment restored the tax on express receipts and altered the form of the section so as to compel the company instead of the shipper to pay the tax. The amendment precipitated a lively debate, in the course of which Smith made a personal allusion to a United States senator who is connected with one of the express companies. Payne vigorously fought the amendment, but it was carried, 123 to 106.

The text of the amendment is as follows: Express and freight: It shall be the duty of every railroad or steamboat company, carrier, express company or corporation, or person whose occupation is to act as such, to make within the first fifteen days of each month a sworn statement to the collector of internal revenue in each of their respective districts, stating the number of shipments received for carriage and transportation, whether in bulk or in boxes, bales, packages, bundles, or not so inclosed or included, for which any charges whatsoever have been made, and for which such shipments received for carriage and transportation the said railroad or steamboat company, carrier, express company or corporation or person whose occupation it is to act as such shall pay a tax of one cent on bundles or packages of newspapers when inclosed in general bulk at the time of shipment.

Discuss Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Washington, Dec. 15.—Throughout nearly the entire legislative day the senate was in secret session discussing the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. No business of importance was transacted in the brief open session, except the adoption of the house resolution providing for a holiday recess to extend from Dec. 21 to Jan. 3.

AMENDMENTS TO TREATY.

Committee Decides It Shall Be Made to Supersede Clayton-Bulwer Pact.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The senate committee on foreign relations held a special meeting and decided to recommend further amendments of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty.

The committee adopted an amendment suggested by Senator Foraker, which declares that the Hay-Pauncefote treaty supersedes the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and also strikes out of the Hay-Pauncefote agreement the article which permits the submission of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty to other powers and invites their acceptance of it.

Unless amended beyond any degree proposed in the senate by the responsible leaders, and resolved into such form as to make it an absolutely disinterested matter to be communicated, the pending Hay-Pauncefote treaty will be submitted to the British government by the president. The communication will be purely pro forma, for the administration has not the slightest idea that the convention will be accepted by the British government. If this belief is well founded, then the document will go into the limbo of treaties failed of ratification, its position comparing in some degree with the Pauncefote-Olney arbitration treaty.

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS.

Hay-Pauncefote Treaty Will Occupy Attention of the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate will devote the greater part of its time this week to the consideration of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, if it should be necessary to do so, in order to get the ratification resolution acted upon, and in case there is any surplus time it will be devoted to the consideration of the ship subsidy bill.

Under the concurrent resolution already passed the house will adjourn over the holidays on Friday. The week in the house is not likely to be important unless the river and harbor appropriation bill should be taken up Wednesday or Thursday. There has been no decision upon this point, however, the bill not having been yet reported to the house.

The revenue reduction bill was passed by the house Saturday. The amendment providing that express receipts should carry a tax of 1 per cent, this to be borne by the companies, was again brought up and defeated.

MONDAY.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Just before adjourning yesterday the senate gave its consent to the fixing of a definite time to vote upon the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. Senators Money and Mason had occupied the time of the executive session in making speeches on the treaty, and when Mason, who was the

last speaker, concluded, Senator Lodge renewed his request to take a vote next Thursday. No voice was raised in opposition, and the unanimous agreement was recorded. The understanding is that the voting shall be on the amendments at 3 o'clock and that the debate shall continue in session until the first vote on the treaty itself is reached.

Senator Money's speech was a flat protest against the entire proceeding in connection with the treaty. He talked for two hours, contending for the right of the United States to act in this matter independently of other nations.

Senator Mason spoke in support of his suggested amendment, authorizing the United States to defend the canal as it may deem proper in case it constructs the canal.

SOLDIERS' BILL DEFEATED.

Measure Giving Them Preference in Government Employment Fails in House.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Under suspension of the rules yesterday the house passed bills to divide Kentucky and West Virginia into two judicial districts, to create another district judge in the Northern district of Ohio and to refer to the secretary of the interior for investigation the claim of the state of Texas for moneys expended on public improvements in Greer county before the decision of the supreme court placed it within the jurisdiction of Oklahoma. An attempt was made to pass a bill to give soldiers and sailors of the Civil war, the Spanish war and the war in the Philippines preference in the matter of appointment to and retention in positions in the executive departments of the government, but it aroused opposition on the ground that it would practically shut out of the government employ for years to come all civilians and was overwhelmingly defeated. Just before the house adjourned a fine tribute was paid to Representative Charles A. Boutelle (Me.), who served 18 years in congress and who has been re-elected to the 57th congress.

Littlefield (Me.) asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a bill to place him on the retired list as a captain in the navy. Mr. Boutelle having been in the navy during the Civil war, Littlefield said that Mr. Boutelle's condition was such that he undoubtedly would resign. The condition of the Maine representative was well known to the representatives, and, although some of them were inclined to protest against the proposed legislation as establishing a dangerous precedent, no objection was made and the bill was passed.

MEASURES FOR SUPPRESSION OF TRAIN ROBBERY.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Representative Ray (U. S.), in the house, and Senator Hoar (Mass.), in the senate, yesterday introduced bills "for the suppression of train robbery in the territories of the United States and elsewhere." It provides the death penalty for those guilty of a "hold-up" in case the death of any person on the train results. In case no one is killed the penalty is made hard labor from 20 to 40 years.

TUESDAY.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Attorney General Griggs delivered his argument in the Porto Rican case before the supreme court yesterday.

The attorney general contended that the United States has the power to acquire territory; that, having acquired it, it has the right to govern it; that administrative construction, congressional action and judicial precedent affirm that every part in a ceded country is properly regarded as foreign until laws are extended by congress to the new possessions; that the clause of the constitution of the United States, declaring duties uniform throughout the United States is not applicable to new territory; that the constitution does not extend of its own force over acquired territory.

He asserted that the Dingley act applied to merchandise imported from Porto Rico and the Philippines after their cession to the United States the same as it did before, and that in view of the fact that the tariff laws are in rem, there is no principle of justice, much less of constitutional restriction, which forbids congress from taxing in this way the merchandise of outlying possessions of the United States when brought into the ports of the Union.

Taking up the constitutional question the attorney general declared that there was no doubt it was the intention of the Paris treaty not to make the ceded islands a part of the United States and also that it was not intended to make the inhabitants of those islands citizens.

Mr. Perkins summed up the arguments for the appellant, in part, as follows: "The constitution limits the powers of congress to impose taxation by the mandate that all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the entire domain of the United States."

Mr. Perkins said the appellants felt that they had established that neither the treaty of Paris nor the tariff act of 1897 were violative of the constitutional principles he had set forth, but that the tariff act was in full force and effect throughout the national domain as well as in Porto Rico and the Philippines, as elsewhere, and it did not contemplate a tax on goods transported from one part of the national domain to another.

he purchased 14 diamond rings, valued at \$1,000, brought them back to the United States, where, at Chicago, the customs officers confiscated the rings on the ground that they came from the Philippines, were dutiable and had been smuggled into the United States.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The house devoted the day to District of Columbia business. The whole time was occupied in consideration of a bill to change the terminal facilities of the Pennsylvania railroad in this city and to provide for the elevation of its tracks across the Mall south of Pennsylvania avenue. The opposition was persistent, but after much filibustering the friends of the bill succeeded in securing a recess until 11 o'clock today in order to continue the executive day and complete consideration of the bill.

WEDNESDAY.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The senate committee on agriculture yesterday began the consideration of the oleomargarine bill by hearing persons interested in the measure which recently passed the house.

A large majority of those present were opponents of the bill and it was stated that as the friends of the measure had been heard before the house committee they would be given the preference in the present hearing. Senator Proctor, chairman of the committee, asked them to be as brief as possible, so as to allow the committee to conclude its labors very soon. The oleomargarine men generally complained of having received very short notice and most of them asked for more time. Hon. M. W. Springer appeared in behalf of the National Live Stock association in opposition to the bill. Ex-Congressman Grant and Governor Hoard of Wisconsin were the only persons present supporting the bill.

Rathbone Gardner made an argument against the pending bill. While he admitted that in some instances oleomargarine was sold as butter there was really no ground for the wild charges that 90 per cent of the oleomargarine product was sold as butter.

FINE TRIBUTE TO BOUTELLE.

Congress Puts Him on the Retired List as a Captain in the Navy.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Congress has authorized the president to appoint Representative Charles A. Boutelle (Me.) to be a captain of the United States navy on the retired list. Without a word of opposition or even comment the senate passed the house resolution authorizing Mr. Boutelle's retirement. It is expected the president will approve the authorization, and nominate him as a captain on the retired list of the navy.

Aside from the transaction of some routine business and the passage of 71 private pension bills, the senate did nothing of importance in open session yesterday.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The house yesterday, at the end of a spirited contest extending over two days, passed bills compelling the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio railroads to abolish grade crossings, to alter their routes into the city, and to change terminal facilities. An amendment was placed upon the Pennsylvania railroad bill to compel the road to build a new station to cost not less than \$1,500,000. The bills were vigorously antagonized by a portion of the minority under the leadership of Cowherd (Mo.), on the ground that they were too liberal to the roads.

READY TO VOTE ON TREATY.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Yesterday's executive session of the senate demonstrated that the discussion of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty by that body is practically exhausted, and that the senate is ready for the vote, which has been fixed for today. When, upon Senator Lodge's motion, the doors were closed and he called up the treaty no senator evinced a desire to speak upon it.

KRUGER NOT A FUGITIVE.

Declares That He is in Europe at the Command of His Government—Given Cordial Reception at Amsterdam.

Amsterdam, Dec. 20.—Mr. Kruger arrived here yesterday. He was met at the railroad station by the municipal and communal authorities. Speeches were exchanged in the royal waiting room. A bouquet was presented to Mr. Kruger, whose every appearance was a signal for rounds of applause.

Very large crowds of people lined the route to the town hall, where the burgomaster made a speech, in which he said he hoped Mr. Kruger would succeed in his efforts to secure honorable peace. Mr. Kruger, in the course of his reply, said:

In 1884 we obtained our independence, but that honorable action has been obliterated. The invaders are ten against one, but we await the day when God will make known his will. I have not come as a fugitive, but by the order of my government, with the object of terminating a war in which the British employ women and children against us.

Luncheon followed. Mr. Kruger subsequently visited the headquarters of the South African refugees.

The Elderly Gentleman—The true secret of success is to find out what the people want.

The Younger Man—And give it to them, eh?

"Naw, corner it."—Indianapolis Press.

ALL ACCEPT JOINT NOTE.

Foreign Ministers Finally Unravel Tangle at Peking.

PROTEST ON WALTERSEER.

Russian Paper Asserts That Soldiers Complain of German Field Marshal's Brutality—Washington Officials Hopeful of Early Solution of Chinese Problem.

Peking, Dec. 20.—At a meeting of the foreign ministers late last evening, everything in regard to the terms of the joint note was agreed to, including the British modifications. The ministers refused to disclose anything in connection with the matter, believing that the home governments should give the particulars to the public.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—The Novoye Vremya observes that there are evidences of discontent in all the armies, including the German, with Field Marshal von Walderssee's brutality. The paper supports the demand that each army act henceforth on its own responsibility.

Washington, Dec. 20.—While nothing had been heard from Mr. Conger regarding the agreement said to have been reached in Peking as to the terms of the joint Chinese note, the officials confidently hope that the statements are correct and that the way is now paved for its formal presentation to the Chinese plenipotentiaries.

The officials here are unable to say just what the British modification referred to in the Peking dispatch are, but they rested upon the exclusion of the "irrevocable" clause, which this government has all along insisted must not appear in the preamble to the note. Minister Conger had positive instructions from this government on this subject and the preamble to the joint note, it is understood, will not contain that word. The Chinese peace envoys will be given a reasonable time within which to consider the demands made and then will follow the formal negotiations for the settlement of the peace terms.

The following points cover the essential features of the agreement: "The payment of indemnity for the wrongs inflicted by the Boxers to the persons, corporations and societies which have suffered the revision of commercial treaties.

"Some reform in the tsung-li-yamen so that the ministers having business with the foreign office may transact it more expeditiously and with a responsible head.

"A monument to Baron von Ketteler, the German minister, who was killed in Peking, and the appointment of a prince of the blood to proceed to Germany to make formal apology to the emperor for the crime.

"The right to keep a legation guard in Peking, if this is desired.

"The exclusion of candidates for examinations for office for a certain number of years in the case of those who may be guilty of anti-foreign activity.

"An interdiction of importation of arms into China and of material to be used exclusively in the manufacture of arms.

"The taking of measures to prevent future troubles."

Some modification, it is believed, was made to the proposed dismantling of forts, so that hereafter there will be nothing of this character that will prevent ready access to the legations in Peking.

NOTIFIED TO FILE ANSWER.

Second Step in Suit Against Argo Starch Company.

Lincoln, Dec. 20.—A summons was issued from the supreme court yesterday commanding the sheriff of Otse county to notify the Argo Manufacturing company, the United Starch company, and the National Starch company, to have an answer filed with the supreme court by Jan. 14, in the suit of the state against these companies for alleged violations of the trust laws. If answers are not filed by that time the request of the attorney general will be granted and an order issued nullifying the transfer of property. The action is the second step in the suit begun in September by Attorney General Smyth against stockholders of the Argo Manufacturing company and the other defendant companies to annul an alleged combine.

LOOK FOR RE-ENLISTMENTS.

Believed Many Volunteers in Philippines Will Join the Regulars.

Manila, Dec. 20.—The tariff commission is still at work on the tariff. Officers here consider that the return of the volunteers will necessitate little abandonment of stations, and that congress will provide an immediate increase in the number of regulars. It is believed that many volunteers will re-enlist here if bonuses are offered, the amount to be about equivalent to the expense of equipping and bringing out a recruit.

Today General MacArthur will issue a proclamation warning the inhabitants of the archipelago that hereafter strict compliance with the laws of war will be required of noncombatants as well as combatants.

Foul Play Suspected.

Estherville, Ia., Dec. 19.—The house of John Freeman was destroyed by fire yesterday and Mrs. Freeman perished in the flames. There is suspicion of foul play and Freeman has been arrested pending an investigation.

FOR DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR.

Lincoln, Dec. 19.—George Anthes, deputy treasurer of Douglas county, was selected for deputy state auditor.

CLEVELAND'S PANACEA.

Grover Preaches Return of Democracy to the Old Faith.

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—Former President Grover Cleveland contributes to this week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post of Philadelphia an extended article on the plight of the Democracy and the remedy. Mr. Cleveland begins by reviewing the history of the party and he discusses its defeats since 1864 in detail. In taking up the question of the present conditions of the Democracy, he says the success of the party in 1892 was so decisive and overwhelming that a long continuance of its supremacy was anticipated. Then came the "fallacy of free silver and Populism." He preaches the return of Democracy to its old faith, saying: "Sincere Democrats realize that the situation of the party needs repair. Reorganization is not necessary, but a return from our wandering is absolutely essential. Let us be frank with ourselves and candidly acknowledge the futility of attempting to gain Democratic victories except in the Democratic caucus and in Democratic methods. If I should attempt to epitomize what I have written, suggesting a plan for rehabilitation and restoration of true Democracy I should embody it in these words: 'Give the rank and file a chance.'"

THREE BURIED IN DITCH.

Landslide Crashes a Wealthy Montana Ranchman and Two Others Near Chadron.

Chadron, Neb., Dec. 20.—Great excitement prevails in Chadron, and all the male population able to procure teams are speeding out of town with shovels. Word reached town at dark that a landslide buried three men alive in an irrigation canal four miles east yesterday afternoon.

The earth slide was discovered at 3 o'clock, and T. C. Burns, Stauch Burns and Woody Litchfield were buried beneath a sand bank 32 feet deep.

T. C. Burns was a wealthy sheep owner of Montana, who recently came here and invested heavily in irrigable lands.

THREE DROWNED IN ALASKAN WATERS.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 20.—The steamer Amur arrived from the north yesterday after a rough trip, bringing news of the drowning by the capsizing of a boat at Hata lake, near Copper mountain, of Peter Early, Mrs. Joseph Taylor and Minnie Baker. The Amur also brought news that typhoid and pneumonia are very prevalent at Dawson.

RELEASED FROM MEXICAN JAIL.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 20.—W. L. Lewis, a locomotive engineer from Springfield, Mo., who has been in jail at Juarez, Mex., for four months, was released yesterday. His release was at the request of the state department. Lewis was an engineer on the Mexican Central running out of Chihuahua, and ran over a Mexican and cut off his foot.

FREEMAN CONFESSES HIS GUILT.

Estherville, Ia., Dec. 20.—John Freeman, accused of murdering his wife and burning his house, has confessed his guilt. He knocked his wife down with a shoe and chloroformed her and threw her on a bed. Then he covered her with excelsior and saturated it with gasoline and set it on fire, leaving the house immediately. His motive was to get possession of her property.

CIVIL SERVICE LAW VIOLATED.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The committee of the National Civil Service Reform league, appointed to investigate the condition of the federal civil service and the enforcement of the reform laws and rules under the present administration, has submitted a report saying that the progress of the reform, in its application to the federal service, has been seriously checked. The committee asserts that the law has not been thoroughly and honestly enforced and that conspicuous opportunities for its extension have been set aside.

DONKARDS TO MEET IN LINCOLN.

Lincoln, Dec. 20.—The committee on location for the national conference of the German Baptist Brethren (Dunkards) last evening decided to hold the next conference in Lincoln, the last week in May.

COSTLY BLAZE AT ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Dec. 20.—Andrew H. Jackson's residence, valued at \$35,000, with all its contents, was burned yesterday. The loss is \$50,000.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The Buffalo, which is now at Hampton roads, has been ordered to make ready to carry another draft of men for the fleet at Manila.

The British steamer Domingo de Larriaga has arrived at Bermuda in distress. During a gale her main steamship burst, killing three firemen and scalding others.

Charles F. Stone, an insurance man, was shot and killed at Houston, Tex., Wednesday by a burglar in his room. Stone fired at the man and missed. The thief then shot him above the heart and escaped.

Two electric cars on the Greenfield and Indianapolis inter-urban line collided head-on Wednesday near Jim, Ind. Emory Scott and John Glasscock, motormen, were fatally injured. Six passengers were badly hurt.

Andrew R. Henderson of Christenson & Henderson, millers, was instantly killed in the engine room of the plant at Madella, Minn., Wednesday. His garments caught in a shaft and he was whirled around until life was extinct.

KEEP BRITISH GUESSING.

Aggressive Maneuvers of Boers in Cape Colony.

ABANDON CHASE OF DEWET.

Knock's Return Necessitated by Threatened Attack on Winburg—Kitchener Said to Have Demanded Heavy Reinforcements. Another Battle Imminent.

London, Dec. 20.—It is reported that General Knox has been obliged to abandon the pursuit of General Dewet owing to the situation created in Cape Colony by the Boers crossing the Orange river. It is said that 3,000 Republicans have entered Cape Colony and a similar number have reached Philippstown. The report adds that Dewet has about 4,500 men, is northwest of Ladybrand and that an attack upon Winburg is momentarily expected.

A pitched battle is imminent between the British under General Clements, who has been reinforced, and the Boers under General Delarey.

The British losses at Nootgedacht, according to the official accounts, were 82 killed and wounded, with 44 missing and still unaccounted for.

London, Dec. 20.—The war office last evening could give no information regarding the reports of a Boer invasion of Cape Colony. The officials expressed the opinion that the newspaper accounts were exaggerated and that probably the troops who have been employed in chasing General Dewet will be turned to deal with the invaders.

Lord Kitchener, in the meantime, keeps a tight rein over the news, which increases the public disquietude. There is a persistent rumor that he has demanded heavy reinforcements. According to the Daily Mail, private telegrams received in London depict the situation in Cape Colony as somewhat ominous. It seems that the invading Boers are receiving considerable assistance from the local Dutch, and that the transports at the disposal of the British are not strong enough to cope with the invaders.

The government is making the utmost efforts to provide Lord Kitchener with horses and mules.

MOTOR CARS COLLIDE.

Wreck in Ashland, Ky., During Heavy Storm, Injures Several Persons.

Ashland, Ky., Dec. 20.—Yesterday, during a heavy storm, two electric cars, both well filled with passengers, collided near the center of the city. They were running at a rapid rate of speed. Motorman John Seisco was pinned between the cars and is believed to be fatally injured. Motorman William Campbell is also in a critical condition, being cut with glass about the body and face. Conductor Walter Hutchison was badly cut about the body and face. Among the passengers injured are Frank Brunning, county attorney; Miss Annie Kerr of Normal, Ky., internally, may die, and Mrs. John G. Patton, Frank Freit and Mrs. Lydia Moore, all of Catlettsburg, Ky. Half a dozen others were more or less injured. Both cars were almost totally wrecked.

LYNCHING IS LIKELY.

Gulfport, Miss., Dec. 20.—Last evening Albert Lewis, a negro, became involved in a quarrel with Marshal W. B. Richardson over the arrest of his nephew. During the altercation the nephew shot and killed Richardson. After the killing old man Lewis and his nephew and son ran westward along the railroad. Bloodhounds were at once given the trail. About 200 men are following the dogs and short work will be made of the negroes when caught. Great excitement exists and most of the negroes have taken to their houses, as they realize that it is not safe for any of them to be found on the streets.

DOWIE ELDER ROUGHLY USED.

Granville, O., Dec. 20.—G. L. Mason, a Dowie elder of Chicago, was mobbed last night while delivering a lecture at the opera house. The speaker made a bitter attack on the Masons and other secret organizations and was assailed with rotten eggs, vegetables and other missiles. In the confusion, Mason was pushed over on the floor. He appealed for protection and a number of men gathered about him and kept the crowd back while he was escorted to the residence of F. F. Winters.

BANK RECOVERS STOLEN MONEY.

Milbank, S. D., Dec. 20.—The bank of Albee has recovered the money which was taken from its safe by a sneak thief on Tuesday during the noon hour. It was in the hotel barn. A young man named Olson, who works at the barn, which is located but a few feet from the bank, went in at the back door, which was unlocked, as was the safe, and took the \$1,500. Suspicion followed him, he was detained and after being in the sweat box several hours confessed.

SCANDINAVIAN MISSIONARIES MASSACRED.

Boston, Dec. 20.—News has been received by Professor Fridolf Risberg of the Scandinavian Alliance mission of North America from Missionary M. J. Fridstrom, in China, that all the Scandinavian missionaries to Mongolia are killed, and among them Carl John Suber of Boston.

CORTES FAVORS THE WEDDING.

Madrid, Dec. 20.—In the senate yesterday the royal message announcing the marriage at an early date of the princess of the Asturias, heiress presumptive to the throne, with Prince Charles, second son of the Count of Caserta, was adopted by 175 votes against 49.