

GREAT NAVY FAVORED

Cummings of New York Champions Course of Administration.

THAT OLD QUESTION OF ARMOR PLATE

Appropriation Carries \$13,000,000 in Excess of Previous Bills.

MINORITY CHARGES EXTRAVAGANCE

Secretary Long's Opinion Decides Against Government Building Ships.

KRUPP ARMOR IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Lively Debate Occupies the Session of the House—Matter of Price in Different Makes of Armor a Bone of Contention.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The house today entered upon consideration of the naval appropriation bill with the prospect of a severe struggle ahead over the question of armor plate, building ships in government yards and the provision in the bill for the coast and geodetic survey. The bill carries \$13,000,000 more than any previous naval bill. Today Mr. Foss, the acting chairman, and Mr. Cummings, the ranking minority member of the committee, defended the bill. The latter declared himself in favor of paying \$45 for Krupp armor, at least until all the ships authorized were built, and said that the committee had information that the source of which he was not at liberty to reveal, showing that we could obtain Krupp armor at a price lower than any other country in the world. Mr. Kitchin of North Carolina, one of the members who signed the minority report, criticized what he termed the general extravagance of the bill and advocated the establishment of a government armor plate factory to protect the government against extortion.

All efforts to secure an agreement failed and the house went into committee of the whole (Payne) New York in the chair, with an indefinite period for general debate ahead. Foss made a general preliminary speech. In opening Foss paid a tribute to Boutelle of Maine, chairman of the committee, whose illness prevented him from attending the sessions of the house since the Christmas holidays. The bill, Foss explained, carried a total appropriation of \$1,200,000, the largest naval appropriation bill ever reported to an American congress. After explaining the various items in the bill Foss said: "We are building for peace; we are building it not to provoke war, but to conserve international concord; we are building it in order that the nations may be warned that if American honor is assailed American valor will defend. The nation which is armed and ready to fight is the least likely to be called upon to do so. The best peace conference is a strong and efficient navy. Sea power is recognized the world over as the strength of great nations. We are building a navy to maintain our foreign policy, to defend the Monroe doctrine and to guard the proposed Nicaragua canal, which, I trust, will never be built unless the American navy is in a position to have the ability to defend it in time of war."

"While protection to ourselves was the watchword of the past century, commerce will be the watchword of the coming. We will not only continue to build our own ships, but we will also build them by American hands, but at the same time we will build as we have been building recently, ships for Japan and Russia, and in time, by reason of the decreased supply of iron and steel in other countries, we will be building the navies of England, of France, of Germany and the other great naval powers. Men will not embark in commercial enterprises beyond the seas unless they know that their own country has the ability to protect them in every sort and manner. The American merchant ships will be built in our ports so they will go there, and it is necessary by an American man-of-war to see to it that she has the rights and privileges of the most favored nations. The American navy will play an important part in securing our commercial supremacy."

The American battleship would also play, he said, a not inconsiderable part in the civilization of the Philippines. "The American schoolman with his spelling book may enlighten the mind," he said, "but the American missionary with his Bible may soften the heart, the commercial traveler may teach them the laws of trade, but they recognize no virtue unless accompanied by force, and the American battleship anchored in the harbor of Manila will do more than anything else to teach them that liberty is not license, but that through liberty is liberty under law, respect for order and reverence for justice."

Secretary Long's Opinion Considered. Mr. Foss said that except as to the Maine, Wisconsin and Missouri, the committee had concluded to leave the armor plate question to the house. The committee had been unable to recommend the establishment of a government armor plate factory. He quoted Admiral O'Neill's opinion that such an establishment would cost \$4,872,000 and that he did not believe the government should manufacture its armor plate in government yards. Mr. Underwood of Alabama asked if Mr. Foss would permit the house to vote upon the direct question of establishing an armor plate factory.

Mr. Foss evaded a direct reply. "I shall be moved largely," he said, "by the considerations which arise when the amendment is presented."

"The gentleman realizes," observed Mr. Underwood, "that such an amendment can be thrice the part of order."

Mr. Foss said the committee had been largely moved in deciding against the building of ships in government yards by the opinion of Secretary Long, that it would cost to build them in government yards twice as much as in private yards. Mr. Cummings of New York, the ranking minority member of the committee, said the people in all sections of the country recognized that the navy was vital to the United States, as to all other maritime nations. And what was being done, he said. Three battleships were on the stocks without armor. Three were authorized with a string attached. They were not even to be contracted for unless the armor could be procured for \$300 a ton. The bill recommended two more. Was a string to be attached to that? It would be like voting for a declaration of war and then refusing to provide ammunition.

"Why buy Krupp armor plate?" interrupted Mr. Ridgely. "Why not make our armor?"

STILL LOOKING WESTWARD

Washington Ticket Builders Not Contented by Long's Announcement.

SECOND PLACE IS HAED TO FILL

Reasons Why Massachusetts May Not Have the Honor and Why Nebraska Stands a Good Show for It.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—(Special Telegram)—Mention of Secretary Long's name for vice president has not caused the flutter among politicians as expected. Those who are watching the situation and balancing the merits of the various candidates who have been suggested do not find any special reason for going to Massachusetts for a candidate, because they believe that the Old Bay State is perfectly safe to republicans, no matter from what section the vice president is taken. Western republicans, on the other hand, are still canvassing the advisability of crossing Ohio for their vice presidential candidate, and as Senator Nelson said, it would be good politics to take candidates from either Indiana, Illinois or Nebraska. Congressman Graevener said: "I have all along been in favor of going to the west for the vice president, and I believe we ought to take a man who will give strength to the ticket in some sections of the country where the contest promises to be close."

Many names have been suggested within the past few days. Senator Spooner of Wisconsin would be the favorite if it was believed that the west would accept a candidate of Indiana in the same category. Representative Mercer is growing in favor and statesmen are looking closely into the Nebraska project. If his candidacy seems likely to threaten Mr. Bryan's hold upon the west, there may be some interesting developments in the coming weeks. Representative Dilliver is spoken of freely, but the eloquent young Iowan says he is going to keep on running for congress just the same and not get frustrated with the idea of presiding over the committee. Not, however, does he mean to run for the presidency, but he is not sure of that.

Fighting the Oreo Bill. J. A. Hake, W. B. Cheek and D. S. Parkhurst, a trio of stalwart South Omahans, are in the city in relation to the oleomargarine bill now pending in Congress. The South Omaha delegation came to Washington as representatives of the Live Stock exchange, which is fighting the bill tooth and nail. Mr. Hake stated they are not representing the packers of South Omaha, as these have agents who are looking after the packing interests, but come as spokesmen for producers, that great body who would be vitally affected should the present measure become a law. This is hardly within the range of possibility, and the chances are the bill will never find its way out of the committee. Not, however, will they run any risk, the South Omaha delegation will meet the congressional delegation from Nebraska in Mercer's committee room on public buildings and grounds tomorrow and talk over the situation. It is stated that Congressman Neville is in favor of the bill, with some modifications, especially as to the tax which it is proposed to put on the product, believing that it is the sense of the people of Nebraska as expressed in the state legislature that oleomargarine should be secondary to dairy products.

Alaska Bill Occupies Upper Branch of Congress—Amendment Made. WASHINGTON, April 16.—During almost the entire session today the senate had under consideration the Alaska civil code bill. The amendment providing for the mining of gold along the coast in the territory was perfected after a discussion lasting nearly four hours.

The provision in relation to mining at Cape Nome was modified to read as follows: "Provided further, That the rules and regulations established by the miners shall be subject to such general rules as the secretary of the interior may prescribe for mining below high tide and shall not be in conflict with the mining laws of the United States."

The secretary of the navy says that a company had located some claims along the beach at Cape Nome in opposition to a ruling of the secretary of the interior. The idea of his amendment, he said, was to provide for the confirmation of the claims of the company which had located its claims in defiance of the ruling of the secretary of the interior.

Mr. Carter stated that the secretary's ruling was not made until January 3, 1900, and that the confirmation of the claims had been made since that time by persons going from there.

The amendment, he said, would disturb every mining claim along the Behring sea. The amendment was defeated 17 to 17.

On motion of Mr. Pettus the senate struck out the provision heretofore agreed to providing that the mining regulations shall be subject to such rules as the secretary of the interior may prescribe. The amendment was then passed and incorporated in the bill as follows:

"That subject only to such general limitations as may be necessary to exempt navigations from artificial obstructions all land and shall water below mean high tide on the shores, bays and inlets of Bering sea, within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be open to exploration for gold and other precious metals by citizens of the United States, or persons who have legally declared their intention to become such, under such reasonable rules and regulations as the miners in organized mining districts may have heretofore made or may hereafter make governing the temporary prospecting for exploration and mining purposes until otherwise provided by law. Provided further, that the rules and regulations established by the miners shall not be in conflict with the mining laws of the United States, and all permits heretofore granted authorizing any person or corporation, or company to excavate or mine under any of said waters are hereby revoked and declared null and void. And the reservation of a roadway sixty feet wide, under the 10th section of the act of May 14, 1882, entitled 'An act extending the homestead laws and providing for the right of way of railroads in Alaska and for other purposes' shall not apply to mineral lands or town sites."

The provision in the bill that no person over 50 years of age shall be eligible to appointment as United States district judge of Alaska was stricken out.

Mr. Warren of Wyoming offered an amendment which was agreed to, providing that in case of the death, sickness or absence of a justice of the peace, the clerk of the court should be authorized to appoint a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy.

Farmers to Get Weather Cards. WASHINGTON, April 16.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has directed that advantage be taken of the rural free delivery

BOERS REPORTED ON RUN

Investment of Wepener is Said to Have Been Abandoned.

BRITISH NET SPREAD FAR AND WIDE

England Awaiting Favorable News from the Front—Omaha's Warriers Report on Situation in East—Smith—Conflicting Dispatches.

LONDON, April 17.—4.15 a. m.—Lord Roberts has spread his net far and wide to catch the adventurous commandos that have been making inroads in the southern and eastern part of the State. The net has not yet been drawn in, but at the headquarters of Lord Roberts the impression exists that the power of the Boers is decreasing.

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Justice White in his opinion said that it was unnecessary to consider the law forbidding the express companies from requiring the shipper to furnish the receipt stamp since it was not to be determined in the case even if it should be conceded that the act imposed on the company the duty of paying the tax. It was essential, he said, also to ascertain whether the act forbids the company from shifting the burden of the tax by means of an increase in rates. The whole decision, therefore, turned upon the construction of the law on this point. Quoting the section of the law imposing the tax upon express company receipts Justice White said:

"There is nothing in this provision which by the widest construction can be construed as expressly forbidding the person upon whom the taxes are cast from shifting the same by contract or by any other lawful means."

Continuing he said that the contention in behalf of the shippers amounts to saying that the act is not merely one for levying taxes, but is a statute determining that the burden must irrevocably continue to rest upon the one whom it is primarily placed. The result followed: "That all contracts or acts shifting the burden and which should be otherwise, valid become void. To add by implication, such a provision to a tax would be contrary to its intent and be in conflict with the general principle which a law levying taxes is naturally presumed to effectuate."

The opinion also disposed of the contention that the tax should be imposed upon the express companies because they are common carriers and therefore should bear the burden of the tax. "This is unquestionably," he said, "a correct principle subject to the requirement of reasonable rates, but no question of the reasonableness of the rates charged arises on this record or is at issue in this case."

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The case of the Adams Express company, coming to the court from the circuit court of appeals for the second circuit, was also decided in favor of the company.

Justice Harlan and McKenna dissented from the opinion of the Michigan case on the ground that "the war revenue act imposed upon the express company the duty not only affixing at its own expense the requirement stamp upon any receipt issued by it to a shipper, but of concealing such stamp."

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CAST SLURS ON COMMITTEE

Small Wrangle Between Senators Over Referring a Resolution from the House.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—When the senate convened today the house joint resolution in favor of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States senators by the people was laid before the senate. As it was about to be referred to the committee on privileges and elections Butler of North Carolina asked that it be read and then addressed the senate briefly. He declared it was the function of a committee of the senate to consider, not to smother, legislation. He thought this question had been so thoroughly considered that it was not necessary to send it to a committee and he therefore moved that it be placed on the calendar.

Chandler, chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, said that as Butler was disposed to make imputations upon the committee he desired right now to inform him that he was mistaken.

"I do not," he said with a snap, "quite like to have the senator attack the committee on privileges and elections in advance of its action on the measure."

He called attention to the gravity of the proposition submitted, that the matter should be withdrawn and it was referred to the committee on privileges and elections. He did not approve of the proposed amendment, holding that its adoption would give the United States two legislative bodies, both chosen by the people in popular elections, the only difference being that the senate is elected for a longer term than the representatives.

Pettus of Alabama expressed his regret that reflections had been made upon the committee on privileges and elections. The motion to place the resolution on the calendar was withdrawn and it was referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

Davis of Minnesota reported from the committee on foreign relations the following resolution and it was adopted: "The secretary of state is directed to send to the senate a copy of the memorial of Edward Gottfried, a citizen of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and late a consular agent of the United States at Trujillo, Peru, sworn to March 21, 1900, now on file in the State department, together with all papers, letters and exhibits attached to the memorial, and also copies of all correspondence of this government and that of Peru and of any opinions or decisions of the Department of State in connection with the action of a party of Peruvian revolutionists against the packing interests of New York, after August 28, 1898, the memorialist at the time being consular agent of the United States in Peru, the wrong-doers perpetrating, it is alleged, deprivations on its property and injuries and indignities upon his person and the lives of his family."

The senate then resumed consideration of the Alaskan civil code bill, the pending question being an amendment offered by Stewart as to regulations for the mining of gold below low water mark along the coast of Alaska.

Mr. Allen will be inducted into office May 1 with much ceremony—Arrangements all completed.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Mr. Allen, the newly-chosen governor of Porto Rico, is in the city en route to New York. Mr. White is here on matters connected with the internal revenue department and will call on Commissioner Wilson tomorrow.

McPherson Explains a Vote. Congressman McPherson of Iowa said today that he would probably be attacked in some quarters for voting against the resolution submitting to the senate an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of senators by the people, but he thought when his people know the circumstances they would stand by him. He said he voted for the proposition to allow each state to elect senators by direct vote of the people through such legislation as the state might see fit to adopt, but he voted against the proposition to compel election by the people, believing this struck at the very cornerstone of the constitution.

Senator Thurston has introduced a bill increasing the pension of George W. Howard of Omaha.

Free Blackleg Vaccine Wins. The senate committee on agriculture today gave a hearing to representatives of the drug manufacturers who are opposed to the free distribution of blackleg vaccine by the Department of Agriculture. The western members of the committee, Messrs. Helfield, Henshaw, Allen, Foster and Warren, urged that the department be sustained in its action and that the full appropriation for conducting the bureau of animal industry, by which the distribution is made, be allowed, as provided by the bill. This was agreed to and free distribution of blackleg vaccine to stockmen of the western states will be continued.

The Omaha National bank of Omaha and the Chase National bank of New York were today approved as reserve agents for the First National bank of Newman, Grover, Neb., also the Ninth National bank of New York for the First National bank of Lincoln, and the First National bank of Omaha and the Western National bank of New York for the City National bank of Weeping Water, Neb.

An order has been issued discontinuing the postoffice at Lavaca, Cherry county, Neb. Mail will be sent to Gordon, Sheridan county.

Some New Postmasters. Postmasters appointed: Nebraska—George W. Bell, at Bristol, Boyd county; Vice C. A. Brooks, resigned; Jostie Wenzel, at Tate, Pawnee county; Vice U. Blukenshoff, resigned; Iowa—Herbert A. Haffner, Elm county; Christian Munk, at Halls, Lourdes, Howard county; William E. Gerlach, at Lyman, Cass county; South Dakota—Llewellyn Morgan, at Bath, Brown county.

Comptroller Dawes has approved the organization of the First National bank of Sisseton, S. D., with a capital of \$25,000. Henry S. Morris, A. J. Norby, J. A. Rickert, W. N. Morris and Howard Babcock are named as incorporators.

The following changes in officers of northwestern national banks are announced: Nebraska—The First National bank of Lexington, M. Temple, president, in place of H. W. Temple; Iowa—The Oklahoma National bank of Okaloosa, H. L. Spencer, vice president; the First National bank of Hawarden, no cashier in place of T. N. Greiner, resigned.

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President of National Woman's Relief Corps Appoints Her Aids for Memorial Day Celebration.

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Auguste C. Peit, Baltimore; Alice C. Gladden, New Britain, Conn.; Louis K. Tate, West Meigs, Conn.; Jennie E. Stone, Superior, Neb.; Estella E. Gage, Lincoln, Neb.; Cora E. Tanner, Springfield, Ill.; Adeline Libbey, Brooklyn; Martha Card, East Providence, R. I.; Mary J. Worthen, Hartford, Va.

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Rainy and Colder; Northerly Winds.

Table with 4 columns: Hour, Deg., Hour, Deg. Forecast for Nebraska—Rainy and Colder; Northerly Winds.

SHIPPERS MUST STAND IT

Stamp Tax Case Decided in Favor of Express Companies—Two Federal Justices Dissented.

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