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IMPORTANT BILLS ARE FINALLY PASSED

River and Harbor Appropriations Put Through Unopposed, and Revenue Reduction Measure is Adopted Without Remonstrance.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The serenity of today's proceedings in the senate was in sharp contrast with the tempestuous session yesterday. An immense amount of business was disposed of and not a single point raised was sharply controverted. The river and harbor bill, carrying appropriations of more than \$5,000,000, was passed without a word of discussion, and the senate adopted the war revenue reduction bill without disturbing in the least the mill-pond smoothness of the proceedings.

Final conference reports were made and agreed to on the diplomatic and consular and the agricultural appropriation bills, and another conference on the postoffice appropriation was agreed to. Conferences on several other measures were agreed to, and several bills of a minor character were agreed to. The last hour and a half of the session was devoted to the consideration of the civil sundry bill.

When the senate convened the president pro tem, Mr. Frye, presented a letter from the marquis of Lansdowne expressing the appreciation of his majesty King Edward VII for the resolution adopted upon the occasion of the Queen Victoria.

King Edward's Letter. The letter, which was sent to Ambassador Choate and by him transmitted to the state department, and by secretary Hay sent to the senate, is as follows:

LONDON, Feb. 14, 1901.—Your Excellency: The prime minister has had the honor to receive the copy of the resolution of the senate of the United States of America, which your excellency forwarded in your note of the 8th inst.

By command of the king I am to express your excellency to be so kind as to express to the president of the senate his majesty's most sincere thanks for the resolution shown by the senate of the United States to the memory of her deeply lamented majesty, Queen Victoria, which is generally acceptable to both sides and was adopted without division. Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, acquiesced in it as the best that could be done, although he stated that the majority still believed the war taxes should be reduced \$70,000,000.

Final reports on the diplomatic and consular and agricultural appropriation bills were adopted. The major part of the day was devoted to the consideration of the efficiency of the revenue cutter service. Although the bill is a house measure its friends were very persistent, and in the face of many difficulties hung on to it with bulldog tenacity and finally forced the bill into such a parliamentary situation that it will be voted on after five minutes' debate tomorrow.

The house met at 11 o'clock today. Mr. Loud presented a committee conference report upon the postoffice appropriation bill. He explained that the most important feature of the report was the provision that providing for experiments in mail delivery in towns and cities not having free delivery or rural free delivery service. He did not think it wise, as it might commit the government to mail delivery in every city, town and village and might ultimately involve an expenditure of \$25,000,000 per annum. The amendment directing the postmaster general to report upon the feasibility of the government owning the postal telegraph-telephone system he considered unwarranted. He was opposed to the government entering upon a postal telegraph scheme, but it had been represented to the conferees that this amendment must be accepted to avoid complications in the closing hours of the session.

Mr. Cannon also entered his protest against the amendments for experiments in mail delivery. He declared that the amendment was the entering wedge for free delivery in every town in the United States. There were several of such character and expense was only \$1,000 a year in each town—and it would be twice that much and more—the total would be \$50,000,000 a year. The report was defeated—42 to 78—and the bill went back to conference.

Mr. Wood of Massachusetts, chairman of the special committee appointed to investigate the pay of employees of the house, presented the report of that committee. Mr. Bailey of Texas, a member of the committee, offered the resolution directing the speaker to appoint another committee of five members—elect of the next house to prepare a general bill to apply for the next house. He thought the testimony taken before the subcommittee would show the matter needed revision. The resolution was adopted.

The conference report on the Fort Fetterman (Wy.) reservation bill was adopted. At 6:15 the house adjourned until tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

PRESIDENT AVERSE TO DELAY Wants Chinese Negotiations to Proceed Without Being Checked by More Bloodshed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Special Commissioner Rockhill at Pekin has been instructed to make it known to the foreign ministers that the president strongly deprecates any action that will tend to delay or check the present negotiations there and especially is he desirous that there shall be no further unnecessary bloodshed. It is confidently expected that our commissioner will be able to secure the support and cooperation of a sufficient number of the other ministers to secure a cessation of the punitive demands which it is believed by officials here are not only unworthy of a civilized nation, but threaten to drive the Chinese to desperation and thereby cause a renewal of armed resistance on their part.

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McVICKER GIVEN RELEASE

Omaha Fielder's Appeal to League Magistrates is Granted.

WESTERN CIRCUIT IN PROSPECT American Association May Be Succeeded by a New Alliance of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan Clubs.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The National League magistrates concluded their spring meeting at the Fifth Avenue hotel today. Before adjournment the playing schedule for the coming season was announced. The national board of arbitration, consisting of A. H. Soden, James Hart, John T. Brush, E. De Haas, James Cotter, John J. Ross and president Young, went into session at 10:30 a. m. It took seven hours to finish the business before it.

The official death knell of the American association as an organization in its present form was sounded. It is not probable, however, that a circuit of western clubs will be launched within a few days under this title. President Powers sent a letter to the board, in which he gave up the fight for his organization, saying the eastern end had gone to the wall under financial difficulties. He then asked that the western promoters be allowed to reserve their territorial rights and be allowed to protect their players under contract for the purpose of reorganizing under the title of the American association.

The circuit proposed includes Louisville, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Columbus, Mansfield, Detroit, Grand Rapids or Milwaukee. If this scheme cannot be brought about successfully, it is probable that the American association will be taken into the Western league.

Lay Blame on Rogers. The promoters of the defunct association blame Colonel John I. Rogers for the smashing of the organization of account of his action in compelling the association team in Philadelphia to use league grounds before he consented to the locating of a club in that city. The rental was fixed at \$5,000 for the year, the association to pay all expenses for employees, etc.

The board decided to protect W. H. Watkins' interest in Indianapolis. With the exception of Magoon and Hartzell, who go to league clubs, the board upon application of Mr. Watkins decided to protect him by allowing him to hold all the players on his team and also protect his territorial rights.

Charles Strobel, the Toledo manager in the Interstate league, was turned down hard by the national board in his protest against the Kansas City club of the Western league. The Toledo management failed to apply for protection within the prescribed time in the national agreement. The Kansas City people took advantage of this and secured five of Mr. Strobel's players. He protested, but the board found, after hearing the evidence, that inasmuch as Mr. Strobel had failed to comply with the national agreement, his players were free and at liberty to sign where they pleased.

The application of the Western league for protection with its original membership under the national agreement was granted. The board refused to grant the application of the Connecticut league, used the regulation league balls in championship games.

McVicker Makes Good. "Mattie" McVicker's appeal to be released from contract with the Omaha club was granted. McVicker claimed that under the terms of his contract he was exempt from reservation.

Decision was reversed upon the application of C. B. Kuhn to be released from the Syracuse club. The club was instructed to forward to the national board of arbitration a copy of the agreement between Kuhn and the club. Kuhn claimed his release on the ground that there was back salary due him.

The Chicago club was awarded the services of Outfielder T. L. Hartzell as against the claim of the Chicago club. The Chicago club was to have first pick of two players of the American league for giving its consent to have the latter organization place a club in Chicago a year ago. That was before the fight between the Chicago club and the Chicago club. Late last year the Cincinnati club drafted Hartzell and played him in several games. At the conclusion of the season the Chicago club decided to pick Hartzell as one of the two players under the agreement with Ban Johnson, and Johnson was to have the players and the case was carried to the national board with the above result.

President Hart of Chicago announced that Jack Doyle affixed his signature to a Chicago contract. Doyle, it is said, will probably be sent to the Chicago club. He is expected to be sent to the Chicago club. Andrew Freedman made good his threat and did not attend the session of the magistrates. He was represented by Fred M. Knowles. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that Mr. Freedman's proposed amendment to the constitution, which would give a search after property which had escaped a commission; providing stricter penalties for false listing of property; to end terms of all recess appointees of the governor at the end of the following session of the legislature; fixing the qualification of students who may enter the various state education institutions; to prevent the use of state money for any other purpose than that for which it is specifically appropriated; providing a more extended list of property subject to taxation; to regulate the practice of veterinary surgery; and increasing the fee for filing of brands from \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Reports Cause Hot Debate. The rest of the day was put on committee reports. The most important one was the house bills which had come back from the senate. Several of the committee reports and the matter of concurrence called out a hot debate before being disposed of. The conference report on the general educational act was the subject of a long and interesting debate. The conference report on the wolf bounty bill went into conference to fix what the house thought it yet lacked. Chrisman, Gross and Everett being appointed as house conferees. The senate amendments to the food and dairy commission bill were concurred in and that agreement was made to get the ninth circuit bill before the house for the purpose of killing it, but Wilmarth was able to defeat this move and secured another extension of time. A compromise bill was secured. The lights of the afternoon were in the attempt to again put life into the immigration bill, which failed; to gain call up the bill to prevent candidates from treating, which met the same fate, and the attempt to concur in senate amendments to the "tag cure" bill, which was killed by a motion to indefinitely postpone. On reports

SCHEDULE OF THE GAMES

National League Magistrates Determine Dates for Coming Season.

APRIL 18 IS THE OPENING DAY

Western and Eastern Clubs Stated to Exchange Visits on Memorial and Labor Days, and the Fourth.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The board of arbitration finished its session shortly before 6 o'clock and the league went into session later. The magistrates immediately took up the schedule. According to the schedule the season will open April 18. The New York club opens at home with the Boston club at the attraction at the Polo grounds, Brooklyn opens the season at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati open together at Cincinnati and Chicago begins the season with St. Louis at St. Louis.

The western clubs will be in the east on Memorial day and the eastern clubs will play in the west on Independence day. St. Louis will be the attraction at the Polo grounds on Memorial day, while the Pittsburgh club will entertain New York at Pittsburgh on July 4. At Brooklyn, Pittsburgh will be the guests of Brooklyn May 20, while the Brooklyn club will appear at Chicago on the Fourth. The western teams will be in the east on Labor day.

For the first time in many years the western clubs will invade the east first, and the eastern clubs will close the season in the west.

After concluding the schedule the magistrates finished up some routine work. The majority of the magistrates leave for their respective homes at once.

Following is the national league base ball schedule at home games:

New York's Home Games. New York at home: With Boston—April 18, 20, 22; June 1; July 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 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