

Washington News

bly before the close of the session. The measure received the solid vote of the democrats present with the exception of two.

The cotton firm of Knight, Yancy & Co., one of the biggest concerns of the kind in the south, having offices in Decatur, Mobile, Huntsville, Birmingham and other Alabama cities, has gone into voluntary bankruptcy. The liabilities are said to be in the neighborhood of four million dollars.

Benton McMillin, former governor of Tennessee and for several terms democratic leader in the national house of representatives, has announced himself a candidate for the United States senate, subject to the action of the democratic primary of June 4, to succeed James B. Frazier, whose term expires March 4, next. Senator Frazier has declared he would not enter the primary, but further than this his plans have not been announced.

The high price of meat is partly due to fictitious competition, bidding for cattle on the market, between buyers regularly employed by the Swift, Armour and Morris interests, and buyers employed by the National Packing company, which is controlled by those interests, according to testimony at St. Louis by A. S. Benn, vice president of the St. Louis Dressed Beef and Provision company, in the investigation of the packers being conducted by Attorney General Major. The St. Louis company is owned and controlled by the National Packing company.

With a view of making the investigation of legislative corruption thorough and sincere, Senator Kissell of Kings county, N. Y., introduced a bill naming Theodore Roosevelt, Governor Hughes, B. B. Odell, Jr., William R. Hearst, D. B. Hill and William R. Sheehan as a committee to carry on all such investigations. Senator Kissell's plan caused laughter, but the senator maintains he is serious.

Samuel L. Clemens, "Mark Twain," died at Redding, Conn., on April 18, aged 76. He lapsed into coma at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and did not again recover consciousness, dying at 6:30 p. m. Mr. Clemens was born at Florida, Mo., November 30, 1835. At the age of 13 he was apprenticed as a printer, and at 18 became a "cub pilot" on the Mississippi, then in the height of its glory as a waterway. His experiences as a printer and pilot enabled him to write "Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and "Old Times on the Mississippi." After the destruction of river navigation he engaged in newspaper work, drifting to Nevada where he worked on Virginia City papers. Later he worked as a reporter in San Francisco and as a special correspondent in the Sandwich Islands. His first book was "Roughing It," and was immensely successful. Later he engaged in the publishing business and went bankrupt. With undiminished courage he again took up his pen and paid off every dollar of an immense indebtedness. He was married in 1871 at Elmira, N. Y., to Miss Olivia L. Langdon. Mrs. Clemens died several years ago. Four children were born to them, one son and three daughters. The son and one daughter died in early infancy. Another daughter, Jean, was found dead in her bath a few months ago, and this sad death is believed to have hastened the demise of the famous humorist. Another daughter, Clara, is the wife of the famous pianist, Ossip Gabrilowitsch, whom she married about a year ago. She was with her father when he died.

An Associated Press dispatch under date of April 20 says: "Senator Nelson W. Aldrich called unostentatiously at the White House late Tuesday, and personally acquainted President Taft with his determination to retire from politics at the end of his present term, March 3 next. Senator Aldrich came after all the attaches had departed for the day, and went direct to the White House proper rather than to the executive offices. The call was officially for the purpose of consulting with the president about pending legislation, and particularly with reference to the several measures which the president has characterized as the redemption of solemn party promises. The greeting between the senator and the president was a hearty one, but it is said there was no attempt on Mr. Taft's part to disguise the genuine sorrow he is believed to feel over the retirement of the Rhode Island senator. The president has let it be known for some time past that he felt he had the genuine and sincere support of Senator Aldrich, regardless of what his critics may have said, or thought. Mr. Taft has been a staunch believer in Mr. Aldrich's sincerity, and he has looked to him to put the party measures through the senate in the shape recommended by the administration. As Senator Aldrich will serve throughout the present and the next session of congress, the president still believes that he will have accomplished by that time everything promised in the party platform."

A Washington dispatch to the Lincoln, Neb., Daily Star, under date of April 20, says: "Mr. Bryan expressed to them (democratic members of the Nebraska congressional delegation) his entire confidence in a sweeping victory for the democratic party in Nebraska and the nation."

A decision to allow Representatives Lever and Legar of South Carolina to retain their seats in the house was announced by elections committee No. 3. Both seats had been contested.

The morning after the special election in the Rochester, N. Y., congressional district, the result was the all-absorbing topic in and about the capitol building at Washington. With mock seriousness Representative Rucker of Missouri, a democrat, arose to make a parliamentary inquiry soon after the house convened. "Has the house yet heard that the Thirty-second district of New York had an election yesterday?" asked Mr. Rucker. When the democratic demonstration, precipitated by the suggestion that a democrat had been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of a republican member had ceased, Speaker Cannon with equal gravity replied: "Answering the parliamentary inquiry, the chair observes that one side of the house and the gentleman from Missouri seem to be enthusiastic." Then, raising his voice, the speaker added prophetically: "He laughs best who laughs last." It was then the turn of the republicans to laugh and applaud and the democrats good naturedly joined in the laughter.

The Associated Press dispatches of April 20, the day following the election in the Rochester, N. Y., district, told the following story of how the news was received in Washington: "Not since the political campaign began have the democrats been in such a jubilant mood as they were today over the result of the New York election. They gathered early

on the floor and there was everywhere a spirit of felicitation. The republican leaders declined to attach any particular significance to the deal. It was just a skirmish. 'It does not mean anything,' said Representative Boutell of Illinois. His statement was typical of the republican expression. Among the democrats and insurgent republicans there was a greater variety of views. Representative Francis Burton Harrison (dem.) of New York, believed it marked the overthrow of a regime, nation-wide in its extent. 'It is the beginning of a new epoch,' he said. 'I do not believe a single republican congressman from New York is safe from defeat under the conditions we have there. The retirement of Senators Aldrich and Hale and the result of the elections in Massachusetts and New York means the passing of an old order and the establishment of a new and better one. It is the dawning of a new day.' Representative Underwood, the democratic 'whip' declared that 'it was a distinct repudiation of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law and the administration.' No other construction could be placed on the Massachusetts and New York elections, he said. Representative Ollie James said the democrats would have a majority in the next congress. Representative Lawrence of Massachusetts, a republican member of the new rules committee, when approached on the subject of the election said 'It wasn't up to the Massachusetts members to explain New York.' Representative Norris, of Nebraska, one of the insurgent leaders, said: 'It is simply an uprising of the people against machine rule and means that the people will stand for it no longer. It is a local matter in New York, but similar conditions prevail through the country and similar results will ensue.' 'What does it mean to this house?' Mr. Norris was asked. 'It means that the members who are here because of machine politics—both republicans and democrats—should be able to see the end they are coming to. They won't be here much longer,' was the reply. Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, another insurgent, thought Aldridge's defeat in Rochester was largely due to his personality and what he was known to stand for. 'Cannonism was also an issue,' said Mr. Fish. 'Aldridge was asked whether he stood for Cannon or not and declined to answer. The people answered for him.' There was incidental reference in the senate to the election, by Mr. Gallinger."

On the afternoon of April 25, President Taft sent to the senate the nomination of Governor Charles E. Hughes, of New York, to the vacancy of associate justice of the supreme court of the United States to succeed the late Justice David J. Brewer. Previous to the appointment President Taft received a letter of acceptance from Governor Hughes.

Dismissed from the army and put into the penitentiary for his alleged connection with the fraud on the government in the improvement of the harbor of Savannah, Ga., former Captain Oberlin M. Carter had a \$400,000 fortune swept out of his hands as a further outcome of that transaction. This was the result of a decree by the United States supreme court.

The bill creating the southern Appalachian and White mountain forest reserve was favorably reported from

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