

NEBRASKA SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF UPPER LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A Concise Summary of the Doings of a Week—A Mass of Bills, Resolutions, Etc., Acted Upon.

Wednesday, March 15.

The senate rushed through a substitute for senate file 184, a bill to extend the term of county officers, yesterday forenoon, and recommended the substitute striking out that part of the bill providing for the election of district attorneys, and it applies only to counties not under township organization. Nothing is said in the bill about county attorneys.

A committee was appointed to prepare resolutions on the death of Congressman W. L. Greene, and the flag over the senate chamber was ordered lowered to half mast for the remainder of the day.

A game law was amended on motion of Currie of Custer so as to make it unlawful to kill quail at any time of the year. The bill as amended was recommended for passage against the opposition of several senators.

A resolution congratulating Senator Crow of Douglas on his appointment as postmaster of Omaha was adopted and the senator was called before the bar of the senate to make a few remarks.

A bill authorizing cities and villages to regulate telephone charges by ordinance was reported by a standing committee for indefinite postponement because a similar bill had been considered in the house in committee of the whole. Chairman Fowler moved to reconsider the vote whereby this report was adopted and he withdrew the report. He did so because complaint was made that the introducer of the bill, Schaaf of Sarpy, was not present to defend his bill.

Thursday, March 16.

A slight stir was caused in the senate yesterday morning by Schaaf of Sarpy who insisted on insurance committees to report on all bills in their possession, and to enforce the rule that requires standing committees to report on a bill within four days. The members of the majority side asked for evidence that bills were purposely withheld by committees. None was given by the fusionists. On the contrary several members arose and stated that they had asked standing committees to hold certain bills for them for a short time. Among those who made this statement was Currie of Custer. He said he had asked a committee to withhold its report on his bill relating to the South Omaha live stock exchange until he could secure further evidence from the western part of the state.

Senator Van Dusen arose to a question of privilege in the senate yesterday. He presented a short editorial in the Omaha Bee and then denounced the article as containing an innuendo wholly false in conception. The newspaper article intimated that the senator was standing in the way of the enactment of revenue legislation at the behest of corporations. Whether this meant that he was opposed to the passage of the Pollard revenue bill or that his own revenue bill was being held back for the benefit of corporations that desire to escape taxation, is not known. The members of the revenue committee stated that Senator Van Dusen had urged speedy action on revenue bills.

The bill repealing the obsolete grasshopper law, passed, as was also a similar one providing a county premium or bounty for the cultivation of trees along the north lines of farms. The committee on labor reported house roll 68, by Beverly, for passage with amendment. The bill prohibits the employment of children under fourteen years in any manufacturing or mercantile establishment except during vacation of public schools.

At 12:30 the senate adjourned for the day in order to permit members of the republican side to go to Nebraska City to attend a banquet given by citizens of that place in honor of the newly elected U. S. senator, M. L. Hayward.

Friday, March 17.

The senate realized yesterday that the end of the session was approaching and that the passage of senate bills was necessary in order to ensure action on them in the house. The greater part of the afternoon was devoted to bills on passage.

Among the bills passed was McCarty's bill creating a lien for amounts due for threshing grain and shelling corn. Talbot's amendment to the Lincoln charter authorizing the city to repair and requiring street railways to lay center-bearing or T rails and a bill by Locke of Lancaster abolishing the minimum rate of interest on county funds deposited in banks and authorizing the county treasurer, subject to the approval of the county board. When Senator Locke's bill came up for passage the clerk failed to verify the roll call and when the result was announced it was found that the bill had only 21 votes, one less than enough to pass it with the emergency clause. The bill was placed on its passage without the emergency clause and it received 24 votes, more than enough to have passed the bill with an emergency clause.

The railroad committee recommended the indefinite postponement of a bill that amends the present law relating to the fencing of right of way on that a property owner may build a fence and charge the cost up to the railroad. The chairman of the committee explained that the committee made the recommendation because a similar bill from the senate had been passed and was in the house.

Schaaf of Sarpy, fusionist, had to stand by and see the senate indefinitely postpone a bill of his which repeals the law providing for a state fish commission.

In committee of the whole, senate file 187, amending the exemption laws, was recommended for passage. The object of the bill was to get at persons who receive large salaries and yet are exempt under the present law from garnishment and while drawing good pay for their labor, owe for the groceries that they buy and the clothes that they wear. The bill amends the present law so as to exempt \$50 per month from the wages of heads of families. The present law exempts sixty days

pay. The bill specifically states that only debts contracted in the future are to be affected.

Saturday, March 18.

The passage of bills in the senate yesterday occupied much time.

A bill that was introduced in the house, having for its purpose the reduction of interest on state warrants from 5 to 4 per cent, was passed in the senate without opposition. A bill protecting quail the year round was passed with only one vote against it. Among the bills recommended for passage in committee of the whole was one making the journals of either house of the legislature acceptable as evidence in court to impeach the validity of acts that may have been signed by the governor, though never legally passed. Another bill reducing the legal rate for the publication of delinquent tax lists was recommended for passage. A substitute for the bill legalizing the practice of osteopathy was offered, and will come up for future consideration.

Schaaf of Sarpy county introduced a bill in accordance with the governor's special message asking the legislature to submit an amendment to the constitution increasing the number of judges on the supreme bench.

Kumors of an attempt to formulate a combination between republican and fusionists in the senate for the selection of a sifting committee, such as was formed in the house were heard yesterday. A combination with fusionists in the senate would require the cooperation of a least five republicans.

The insurance committee of the senate met yesterday and considered the Weaver insurance bill that transfers the insurance department from the auditor's office to the governor and provides a tax of 3 per cent on the gross premiums of companies organized outside of the state and a tax of 2 per cent on companies organized under the laws of the state. It is believed the committee will recommend it for passage.

Monday, March 20.

The senate put in a half day Saturday and the members are therefore entitled to another day's pay. During the time the senate was in session a few bills were passed and the two revenue bills that have been bothering the legislature were reported by the revenue committee. The Pollard bill from the house was placed on the general file without recommendation. The Van Dusen revenue bill, senate file 210, was placed on the general file with a recommendation that it be passed. As it is late in the session it is believed the bill will have a hard time to get through. The Pollard bill is not understood by the senate and as it does not have the recommendation of the committee on revenue as an endorsement its fate is considered doubtful. If the Van Dusen bill passes the senate it will have a hard time getting through the house. The prospects for revenue legislation are not considered bright.

Among the bills passed Saturday by the senate was one to change the laws of garnishment so that only \$50 a month of the wages of heads of families may be exempt, "except that sixty days' wages shall be exempt from process for deficiency debts where property, real or personal, is held as security for the indebtedness or has been taken under foreclosure proceedings in satisfaction of the debt. Another bill making the house and senate journals competent evidence in court to impeach the validity of bills that have been signed by the governor was passed. Holbrook of Dodge is the author of a bill that passed. Its purpose is to make Saunders county pay its share of the expenses of keeping up the Platte river bridge that crosses the boundary line between the two counties.

Senator Currie made an effort to secure action on the Lieutenant-Governor's anti-pass bill, but failed. He will try it again today.

Adjourned to Monday.

Tuesday, March 21.

The senate did not hesitate yesterday to kill senate file 25, by Talbot, a bill providing for a state school book commission to select uniform text books for the public schools of the state. The measure was introduced early in the session. It really provided for the publication of uniform text books by the state. A similar law was tried in Kansas, and various states have been circulated as to the result. Some charged that the bill was introduced by the school book trust and others declared it was directed at trusts and that trusts would fight it. One of the arguments used was that the expense of printing school books in this state would be higher than the prices enforced by the trust. The merits of the bill were never discussed as the measure was hardly considered at any time. Similar bills were introduced during the winter in the legislature in Colorado and South Dakota. The school men of Nebraska opposed the bill and organized to fight it. An organization with headquarters in Lincoln wrote letters to educators and officers of school boards all over the state. The result was a flood of letters asking members of the legislature not to vote for the bill. There appeared to be much rejoicing in the senate when the bill was killed on motion of Locke of Lancaster.

A start was made by the senate to undo part of a little piece of work performed two years ago by the legislature. Senate file 275, an act to permit street car companies to allow firemen and policemen to ride free, was considered in committee of the whole and recommended for passage. The law prohibiting street car companies from allowing any city officers or city employees to ride free was passed two years ago at the request of Frank Ransom of Omaha.

The senate spent most of the time yesterday in committee of the whole preparing bills to be sent to the house. Senate bills were considered because the time for sending senate bills to the house is getting very short. Senate file 131, by Van Dusen, relating to boards of education, contains a clause requiring women who vote at school elections to register the same as male voters. This applies only to cities where there is a system of registration. A lively debate between Senators Front and Van Dusen occurred over the advisability of passing a bill providing that additions to cities and villages may be disconnected by application to the district court. The bill was recommended for passage. Senate file 209, by Giffert of Cuming, regulating the width of public roads, was recommended for passage.

NEBRASKA HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWER LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A Condensed Record of the Work Accomplished During the Past Week—Action on Bills Etc.

Wednesday, March 15.

In committee of the whole in the afternoon, the house considered two important bills. One was the measure by Taylor of Custer county making the district clerk a salaried official, and the other was the anti-trust bill by McCarthy of Dixon county, aimed at the live stock commission exchange at Omaha. Both were recommended for passage.

McCarthy's bill simply provides that all combinations and trusts and especially combinations of persons in the live stock business to buy or sell live stock shall not exist. The fight on this bill was quite extended mainly, however, between Mr. Olmsted of the Omaha exchange and Mr. McCarthy for the bill.

A bill by Tanner to increase the fees on the office of the secretary of state by compelling the filing of all corporations of statements of their condition each year was killed. On the bill, house roll No. 30, by Burns, abolishing the office of the board and secretaries of the board of transportation, a disposition arose to consider all measures of this kind together and the bills, some four in number, were made a special order for Friday afternoon. The bills are house roll Nos. 30, 39, 560 and 224.

Resolutions of respect to the memory of Congressman Greene were adopted by a standing vote.

Representative Haller asked for the advancement of senate file No. 20, a bill permitting counties and cities of the second class to refund bonds, without calling a special election, and this was done with a rising vote out of respect for the member from Washington county.

A motion by Young of Cass county to appoint a sifting committee failed of adoption.

Thursday, March 16.

The session of the house yesterday was brief, but exciting. The routine work started with reports of standing and special committees, which soon showed the temper of the representatives on paying the beet sugar bounties which have been pledged by the state to manufacturers of beet sugar, but which in reality go to the raisers of the beets. After numerous calls of the house it was voted to place these bills on general file, after refusing to make them special order. The two bills introduced for this purpose appropriate in the aggregate about \$125,000 for Grand Island and Norfolk factories. The bills were introduced by Rouse of Hall county. Two fusionists only voted with the majority against postponing the bills. Moran of Platte and Meminger of Madison.

Attempts were made to have a sifting committee appointed, and a coterie of populists and republicans were endeavoring pretty much all morning to get the consent of enough members to have such a committee. No definite steps were taken.

The session of the house yesterday ended at noon, as the members were anxious to adjourn in time to permit the trip to Nebraska City for the banquet of Senator Hayward.

Friday, March 17.

There was more excitement to the square inch in the house yesterday than there has been on any one day yet this session.

Five republican members of the house united with the fusion members of that body and taking the reins in their hands, appointed a sifting committee of seven members which for the remainder of the session will have the sole privilege of advancing bill on general file.

The personnel of the committee shows four republicans and three fusionists. The republican members are Olmsted of Douglas, chairman, Ditmar of Otoe, Fisher of Dawes and Burns of Lancaster. The fusion members are Sturgess of Douglas, Wheeler of Furnas and Tanner of Nance. These seven men according to the wording of the resolution appointing them will have sole power to advance bills on general file, the house agreeing not to take up bills out of their regular order unless recommended by this body.

The house yesterday refused to pass the bill re-creating the supreme court commission. The vote was 45 to 45, and as sixty votes were necessary the veto was sustained. The terms of the three commissioners expired several days ago. Late in the afternoon the governor presented a special message to the house recommending that the legislature submit to the people an amendment to the constitution increasing the number of judges of the supreme court.

Sturgess of Douglas offered the following resolution: "Whereas, the public press have made disclosures of alleged irregularities said to be existing in the supreme court and the supreme court commission with reference to amounts of money drawn by them and in behalf of the several members of their families, said to be illegal and contrary to the provisions of the constitution and the laws of the state; therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee of three members of the house be appointed by the speaker, to make due investigation of said illegal irregularities, and with full power to subpoena and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers, to administer oaths to such witnesses and to make reports of their findings with such recommendations as they may deem just and proper at this session of the legislature."

This passed by the following vote:

THOSE VOTING AYE—5. Bouler, Hardy, Smith, Saline, Bower, Johnson, Sturgess, Kistner, Swann, Carson, Lemar, Tanner, Cawthra, Loomis, Taylor, (Cust) Mann, Osborne, Meminger, Thompson of Crocker, Moran, Wheeler, Cunningham, Morrison, Thompson of Douglas, Dobry, Murray, Merrick, Whelan, McCarthy, Weaver, Eastering, McCracken, Wheeler, Kiewood, McGilley, Wheeler, Endicott, Peck, Woodard, Flynn, Prince, Wright.

Fritz, Rouse, Wynan, Fuller, Sandall, Young, Grandstaff, Shore, Zellers, Grell, Smith, Mr. Speaker, Grosvenor, Smith, Butler.

THOSE VOTING NAY—37. Armstrong, Haller, Myer, Berlet, Harrison, Nesbit, Brierley, Herzog, Olmsted, Blake, Hastings, Pollard, Broderick, Hathorn, Schaeble, Hopkins, Hibbert, Scott, Chambers, Smith, Rich, Chittenden, Houck, Smithberger, L'Amour, Jones, Tucker, Fisher, Lane, Walling, Israel, Milbourn, Wilcox, Hall.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING—6. Anderson, Lau, Cor., Gratton, Beverly, Dittmar, Vandegrift.

Thompson, Merrick, offered a resolution in relation to the committee investigating the pass question. The resolution is intended to get the amount and value of the obligation the state is under to railroad companies, to the minority having reported that the state got the benefit, because no state money was used for mileage. The resolution was adopted.

McCarthy's anti-trust bill was passed, the vote being 67 to 18.

Saturday, March 18.

The republican members of the house not in the combine on sifting committee tried yesterday to knock it out but failed.

The house passed a bill making it a misdemeanor to use wells for cess pools and prohibiting the digging of cess pools deep enough to reach the water supply. A bill was also passed placing the district clerk in all counties on a salary.

Quite a little discussion arose over a bill abolishing the board of transportation. A bill to provide for but one secretary of transportation was recommended for passage.

After this measure had been disposed of, the house in committee of the whole discussed and agreed to a great many other bills. Among them was a bill by Lane of Lancaster providing for a limited number of insurance brokers who are to write foreign insurance in certain instances and keep track of the same in order to permit the taxation of the gross premiums in accordance with the provisions of Weaver's insurance bill.

A substitute for Flynn's eight-hour bill was agreed to with a provision reaching the farm laborers and fixing a day's labor for them at ten hours. A penalty is attached to the bill which by some is thought to give a loop hole for many law suits and which may be cause for amendment when the bill reaches the senate.

Monday, March 20.

The state university salary appropriation was cut in the house Saturday for \$242,000, which the committee on finance ways and means had recommended, to \$210,000, which the house saw fit to decide upon as the proper amount. The reduction was made only after four hours debate. The final vote as the bill was reported from the committee of the whole on a motion not to concur and to let the sum remain at \$242,000, was 36 to 44. Twenty persons were absent when the vote was taken some of whom are known to have been opposed to the measure and who took this vote of not expressing themselves.

Taylor of Custer, Cunningham of Harlan and Easterling of Buffalo led the opposition while the principal speeches for the appropriation as recommended by the committee came from Pollard of Cass, Weaver of Richardson, McCarty of Dixon and Burns of Lancaster. The appropriation of \$210,000 is only \$1,000 more than was allowed for salaries two years ago. The argument was waged along severe lines, many matters being brought in the discussion by the opposition to the appropriation which was not usually discussed. It is reported that the senate will increase the appropriation.

The salary appropriation bill was recommended for passage with the provisions for pay of supreme court commissioners and their stenographers struck out.

At noon the house adjourned till Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

Tuesday, March 21.

Bills appropriating money for the insane hospitals of the state and the institutions under the charge of the state, were considered in committee of the whole in the house yesterday and special appropriations were agreed upon aggregating \$182,000. The bills were not discussed at any great length and there seemed a unanimity of opinion on the measures, unusual where such a large sum of money is disposed of.

The bills were as follows: New building at the hospital for the insane at Lincoln, \$50,000; new building at the Hastings hospital, \$30,000; boiler house and cold storage rooms with new wells and pumps at the Hastings hospital, \$15,000; gymnasium and laboratory at the institution for the blind at Nebraska City, \$6,000; new buildings and machinery for the waterworks and lighting plant at the Beatrice institution for the feeble minded, \$48,500; boiler and pump house at the Omaha institution for the deaf and dumb, \$25,000; total, \$182,000.

After the appropriation bills had been disposed of, the house considered a few other measures on the sifting file. A bill by McGilley of Otoe county compelling railroads to give free transportation to shippers of stock, was favorably recommended. A bill by Jansen of Jefferson to provide for the appointment of a state veterinarian by the governor, was ordered recommended to the standing committee.

During the day, Speaker Clark appointed the committee to investigate the supreme court. The members were Lane of Lancaster, Shore of Cherry, and Detweiler of Douglas.

On report of the standing committee on judiciary a batch of senate curative bills were recommended for advancement and third reading without being considered in committee of the whole. The legislative appropriation bill will be considered soon in the house committee of the whole, having been advanced on general file. Representative Wilcox has prepared several amendments which he will propose at that time. The senatorial districts will be left as they are at present, while a few changes will be made in the representative districts from the way they were in the bill as originally drawn.

See Unknown Weight.

"The average woman," remarked the "observer of men" after things, "at least when measured by weight is an unknown quantity."—Detroit Journal.

AFFAIRS OF STATE

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Timely Mention of the Doings of the National Congress, Departmental and Executive Official Actions, and Movements of Army and Navy.

Wednesday, March 15.

An order has been issued by the war department increasing the age limit from 30 to 35 years.

Samuel J. Taylor of South Omaha has been granted a patent for a shoveling board for grain cars.

The navy department will send 1,000 marines to Cavite, near Manila, to take care of the navy's interests there.

Secretary Alger has issued an order quoting the paragraph in the army law abolishing the canteen and prohibiting the sale of liquor on army reservations.

The administration has decided to take a census of Cuba to determine who are qualified voters before the election is held to establish a representative government.

Chief Constructor Hiebhorn has stated that there are now actually under construction, or already contracted for, fifty-one vessels of various types ranging from battleships to torpedo boats.

All the men appointed second lieutenants in the army will have to pass examination before they are commissioned. They will take rank according to the examinations which they pass, the men from the regular army taking precedence over those appointed from civil life.

Since the talk has been going around that Secretary Alger is about to leave the cabinet a number of eastern newspapers have been urging Mr. Meiklejohn as a worthy successor. It is a well known fact that Mr. Meiklejohn has conducted his department with exceptional ability.

The following table shows how the expenditures of the government have increased since 1881:

Forty-seventh congress, 1881-82, \$ 777,428,949
Forty-eighth congress, 1883-84, 650,209,482
Forty-ninth congress, 1885-87, 740,845,490
Fiftieth congress, 1887-90, 817,983,809
Fifty-first congress, 1889-91, 1,025,080,110
Fifty-second congress, 1891-93, 1,227,051,498
Fifty-third congress, 1893-95, 990,229,336
Fifty-fourth congress, 1895-98, 1,043,437,001
Fifty-fifth congress, 1897-99, 1,506,900,061

Thursday, March 16.

Acting Postmaster General Heath has issued an order directing that on and after March 1 the fees for postal money orders issued in the United States for payment in Cuba shall be the same as those fixed by law for domestic money orders.

In making the payments to the Cuban soldiers, which have been arranged for by Secretary Alger, the personality of the Cuban commanders will play little part. The soldiers are to be dealt with individually, and the money will be handled only by the United States army paymasters, receipts being taken from the individual.

Capt Charles H. Marple, Third Nebraska infantry, who is convalescing from a severe attack of typhoid fever, was in Washington yesterday. Captain Marple proposes to join his regiment at the expiration of his present sick leave. He has been invalided from the hospital at Savannah to his father's home at Norristown, Pa.

The reports of the likelihood of a renewal of the trouble among the Indians at Leech Lake, Minn., are not credited at the Indian bureau at Washington. Captain Mercer of that agency, in a letter received at Washington a day or two ago, referred to the rumors that had been circulated, but said they were traceable to the whites, and there was no expectation of any trouble.

The committee which was appointed by the Cuban military assembly at Havana to come to Washington to secure recognition, it can be stated will not be recognized in any official capacity. The war department officials are actuated by a conviction that they are bound by reasons of sound policy to avoid carefully any official recognition except to such a fully representative body as shall be created by all of the Cuban people through the exercise of the right of franchise.

Friday, March 17.

Secretary Alger is in Montreal, Canada, the guest of Sir William Home, president of the Canadian Pacific railway.

No selection has yet been made of representatives of the United States at the approaching peace conference at The Hague.

Washington officials are gratified at the news from Madrid received yesterday, that the Spanish government has abandoned the idea of again submitting the peace treaty to the cortes, and proposes to have it ratified by the queen regent, who will do it today.

John Sherman, former secretary of state, who is a passenger on the American liner Paris, now making a tour of the West Indies, is suffering from a bad case of pneumonia. The cruiser has been ordered to proceed from Havana to Kingston, Jamaica, and bring Mr. Sherman home, as the Paris will be out for a couple of weeks yet.

Lieutenant Vitale, military attache of the Italian embassy, has been granted permission by the war department to accompany troops to Manila and to remain with the army during the campaign in the Philippines. He desires to study the American method of land and sea transportation and to observe campaign methods.

Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Brewer of the supreme court, will leave the United States for Paris so as to arrive there about May 25 next, at which time the oral arbitration will be heard in the Venezuelan arbitration case. The hearing is expected to cover three months, after which the court is expected to devote about three months to consideration of the question, giving a decision probably in November.

Saturday, March 18.

President McKinley is enjoying the Georgia sunshine.

The navy department is taking steps for the formation of a mosquito fleet for service in the Philippines.

Advices have been received from Manila which indicate that the Philippines are tired of war, and the ending of hostilities is expected soon.

The state department received word from Madrid yesterday that the queen regent has signed the peace treaty. The next step is exchange of ratification.

The transport Grant, which carried General Lawton and his command to Manila, will soon sail for San Francisco. It will bring home only sick and discharged.

In order to facilitate the return of the volunteers from Cuba the quartermaster's department will engage the transport Florida and two Ward line steamers, which will at once be placed in commission as United States transports.

General Brooke has been cabled to proceed to discharge all soldiers who enlisted in the regular army at the outbreak of the war upon the cessation of war should they wish to be discharged. He will endeavor to re-enlist as many as possible, and will try to secure men from the volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Monday, March 20.

Word has come to Washington that ex-Secretary Sherman is improving.

Secretary Alger has returned from Montreal. He expects to go to Cuba this week.

The legislatures of Delaware, Utah, and California have adjourned without selecting senators.

The president has ordered all volunteers brought home from Cuba not later than April 1.

French Ambassador Cambon will act for Spain in the ceremonies attendant on ratification of treaty.

The prospects are that the Third Nebraska now in Cuba will start home home within the next thirty days.

Secretary Long was Saturday notified by cable from Dewey that the Oregon and Iris arrived at Manila, and that the Oregon was in fit condition for any duty.

The comptroller of the currency has approved the application of the Commercial State bank of Genoa, Neb., to be converted into the First National bank of Genoa, with a capital of \$50,000.

O. A. Abbott of Grand Island, Simon Bloom of Omaha and William R. Burton of Hastings, Neb., have been admitted to practice as attorneys for claimants before the interior department.

The war department yesterday received the following from General Otis at Manila: "Our improvised gunboats under Captain Grant, Utah artillery, have full possession of Laguna de Bay; troops, inhabitants and property on shore of lake at our mercy. Wheaton's brigade on Pasig river has driven enemy northeast into Province Marung. Last evening enemy attacked part of his force south of Pasig, killing two men and wounding twenty of the Twenty-second infantry. This morning Wheaton moved against this insurgent force, driving it to the south fifteen miles, experiencing very slight loss. Enemy left 200 dead on the field."

Tuesday, March 21.

The United States supreme court took a recess yesterday for two weeks.

Winfield S. Schley yesterday successfully passed the physical examination for promotion to the rank of rear admiral.

The executive committee of American representatives yesterday accepted the resignation of Frederic Emery, who has been acting director, and chose as his successor Gen. Russell Hastings of Massachusetts.

British Ambassador, Sir John Pauncefote, conferred yesterday with Secretary Hay in reference, it is understood, to a modus vivendi to be observed along the Alaska border in order to obviate the possibility of a clash pending the final delineation of the border.

Captain Erwin, acting superintendent of the Yellowstone National park, has reported to the interior department that the unprecedented fall of snow in the park this year unquestionably will lead to the death of very many antelope, deer and elk before the winter is over. In places in the parks now the snow is over twelve feet in depth and is firmly crushed everywhere which prevents these animals from digging through and obtaining their food underneath.

Judge Advocate General Lemley of the navy department has rendered an opinion as to the date of commencement and termination of the civil and the Spanish-American war, as a basis for calculating the war service of officers to be retired after thirty years. He holds that the civil war began April 25, 1861, the date Lincoln's proclamation was issued and it terminated August 20, 1866, when hostilities ceased in Texas and not April 2, 1866, as stated by the supreme court. The Spanish-American war began, as declared by congress April 21, 1898, and it is held to be still in progress.

The Slipper.

"Antiquarian—The custom of throwing the slipper after a bride comes down from very ancient times. Long before the Christian era a defeated chief would take off his shoes and hand them to the victor, to show that the loser of the shoes yielded up all authority over his subjects. Therefore, when the family of a bride throw slippers after her they mean that they renounce all authority over her. Do you understand? Small Auditor—Yes, sir. They throw away the slippers they used to spank her with!—New York Weekly.

The Chafing Dish Sopper.

"Waal, Gals," said Uncle Si Low, who was visiting his niece, "when you come down to the farm in the summer, you make lots of fun of us because we eat in the kitchen. But I don't see as it makes much difference whether you eat in the kitchen, or cook in the dining room."—Truth.